

SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE



Green Gully Cavaliers players celebrate their Grand-Final victory over the Frankston Pines.
(Photo by Steven Gray)

GULLY TAKE OUT VPL FINAL

Ian Dobson's Green Gully last Sunday afternoon celebrated their third Grand-Final victory at the Knights Stadium after recording a one-nil win over surprise packets the Frankston Pines.

A sole goal from Cavaliers striker Nick Tsaltas was enough to separate the pair on a cold and wet windy night.

Both sides put on a wonderful display of football showcasing that the Victorian Premier League is one of the standout competitions in Australia.

Even with the dreadful weather, 3000

supporters came out in their respective colours to drive on their sides to victory.

Frankston might have lost the final but won many admirers with the spirit and passion the side played during the season.

After its initial promotion to the top flight in Victoria from the State League, the Pines have been one of the toughest teams to beat.

It wasn't to be a fairytale ending for the Pines as the experience of Green Gully with players such as Adrian Cervinski and Andy Vargas paid dividends in the end.

Read on Page 7 for a more detailed report on the Grand-Final and what the players and coaches stated after the match.

CRESCENT CROWNED PREMIERS



Read on Page 19 on NSW Winter Super League side Sydney Crescent Star's Premiership victory over AC United last week.
(Photo by Carlos Furtado)

SOUTH FIND TROUBLE IN BERGERS

A new look South Melbourne outfit with a new coach and host of new names were put to the test last Sunday afternoon in a Charity Shield clash against long-time rivals Heidelberg.

Named the 'Radiomart Cup', the proceeds that followed the match went straight to raising cash for kids with special needs, a program, which both sides will practice throughout the season.

It was the first time both squads played against each other after seven years in a day that brought together a number of the sides traditional supporters.

New South Melbourne coach Stuart Munro's side took 73 minutes before recording the first goal against their Victorian State League counterparts thanks to a brilliant header from new signing Michael Curcija.

The former Olyroo star notched up the goal thanks to some great lead-up work from South fan favourite Con Boutsianis who steered his trade-



Vaughan Coveny calmly converted from the spot for South Melbourne in their two-nil victory over Heidelberg United in a Charity Clash last Sunday afternoon.

mark cross straight to the target of Curcija.

All was settled a minute before full-time when exciting young midfielder Massimo Muroccca was brought down inside the penalty box.

Fresh from this year's Confederations Cup played in France, Kiwi striker Vaughan Coveny calmly converted from the spot to end the game's proceedings in Souths favour, two-nil.

It took time for South to settle through match with Heidelberg playing some spirited football on a day that could have gone either sides way thanks to the dreadful conditions in Melbourne.

There was quite a vocal support for both sides but many more could have turned up if it wasn't for the Victorian Premier League final between the Green Gully Cavaliers and Frankston Pines that was played the same day. Whatever the scenario, the kids were the real winners and so were both sides whom helped out a special cause.

Congratulations goes out to both Victorian clubs for putting on a great show.

MURPHY SCORES ON DEBUT

It took former Socceroo defender one game to notch up his debut goal for new club Perth Glory as his side defeated local Western Australian outfit Inglewood United four-one as part of a special Charity Match with money raised for the Starlight Foundation.

The ex-Sheffield United defender put on a great performance for Mich d'Avray's side but were shocked early on in the game thanks to a goal from young Inglewood striker Michael Bazynski.

The green-light however was switched on for the Glory when four goals were scored thanks to trallist Mark Williams, Nick Mrdja, Murphy and Adrian Caceres to end match pro-

ceedings in the National League sides favour. Talk of the day belonged to former Glory star David Tarka who snapped up a professional contract with English Division One side Nottingham Forest last week.

Officials, players and spectators wished the Young Socceroo star well who could well be the next big thing overseas.

"This is a great move for me. I've achieved everything I wanted to achieve in Australian football and moving to England really was the next step. I jumped at the opportunity when Forest offered me a trial and am delighted to have signed a three-year deal with the club," Tarka added to Nottingham Forest website.

NEW CANBERRA SOCCER GROUP WANT PHILLIP OVAL

Representatives of the consortium, aiming to bring NSL soccer back to Canberra today announced that they have made approaches to the developers of Phillip Oval and the ACT Government regarding the use of the redeveloped stadium as a home ground for Canberra's new team.

"It's an ideal venue" said Brad Levy, representing the consortium. "It's right next to a public transport hub, and has ample parking for NSL matches"

The consortium, are opening offices in Canberra this week, and will immediately commence discussions with the Minister for Sport.

"Sports Minister Ted Quinlan is

aware of our intentions, and we are planning to meet with the developers formally in the next week or so," said Levy.

Our formal submission to Soccer Australia is in production, and we are consulting with local clubs and high-profile members of the soccer community to get this right. Finally Canberra can have an amply capitalised club that will be more than competitive on the national scene."

It is believed that the group, have signalled their intentions to Soccer Australia who are supportive of the team's entry into the new national domestic soccer competition, providing strict criteria are met.

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aussiesabroad

BY DANIEL KUZIW

Wimbledon have completed the signing of young Australian striker Scott McDonald.

The 19-year-old former Southampton and Bournemouth ace has been on trial with The Dons for the past week and he has done enough to earn a permanent deal at Selhurst Park.

"He has been with us for a while in training and he's done very well," manager Stuart Murdoch told the club's official website.

"He did well for the reserves against Portsmouth and showed us that he is capable of scoring goals.

"I'm pleased to get him in and now it's down to Scott to show that he can perform on a regular basis."

★ ★ ★ ★

Hartlepool have signed Australian Adam Van Dommelle on short-term deal.

The defender has recently been on trial with Oxford United but has now teamed up with the Division Two side with a view to earning a permanent contract.

"I am looking to prove myself to the team," Van Dommelle told the club's website.

"I want to show that I can play at this level to everyone at the club and to myself also."

The 18-year old represented his country at the 2001 World Youth Cup in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I consider myself a bit of a big lad and reckon I can hold off the strikers. I like to get in there and be pretty

tract will allow Van Dommelle a chance to prove himself.

"Adam came in and trained with the youth team initially but has been with the first team for the past couple of days and has done well," stated Cooper.

★ ★ ★ ★

Nottingham Forest have completed their move for David Tarka, handing the defender a three-year deal.

After agreeing a fee for the Perth Glory star last Wednesday, Forest moved swiftly to agree personal terms with the player and will now await international clearance.

Tarka had trials with several clubs, including Premiership side Portsmouth, before agreeing to move to Paul Hart's Forest.

The highly-rated centre back has emerged as one of his nation's best up-and-coming stars, and will be hopeful of having a major impact in England.

"This a great move for me," Tarka told Forest's official website.

"I've achieved everything I wanted to achieve in Australian football and moving to England really was the next step.

"I had two weeks with Portsmouth but things didn't really work out there. I jumped at the opportunity when Forest offered me a trial and am delighted to have signed a contract with the Club.

"I'm really looking forward to my time at The City Ground. Forest is a club with a great history and it's a honour to be here."

★ ★ ★ ★

Rangers manager Alex McLeish admits it is 'touch and go' whether Craig Moore will be fit in time for their Champions League qualifier against FC Copenhagen this week.

The defender suffered a hamstring strain during the first-leg clash with the Danish champions at Ibrox.

Rangers' hopes of progressing to the group stages of the Champions League hang in the balance after being held to a 1-1 draw in that game and McLeish knows he needs as many fit players as possible for the trip to Denmark.

But the Rangers manager admits Moore's progress so far has been limited and he could now miss out on the crucial tie.

McLeish said: "Craig has

not made much progress in the last few days but has had intensive treatment and I'm sure in the coming days there will be some improvement.

"It will be touch and go for Copenhagen. In a match like that, when there are high stakes, you obviously want all your best players available.

"But, if that's not the case, we need lads who did not feature as much last season to give us a bit more this term and really pull out all the stops."

★ ★ ★ ★

Tribal Football.com reports that Peterborough United boss Barry Fry has sent Aussie youngster Shane Huke on-loan to local club King's Lynn.

Huke has been tracked by England's U18 scouts and has been earmarked for a future international call-up.

Fry said: "Shane has joined King's Lynn today and he will make his debut for them on Tuesday. "Like with Bradley Thomas and Lee Clarke, it will be a great experience for Shane. He has been outstanding in pre-season and we have very high hopes for him.

"We think a month's loan playing regular football will help his development further and we wish him well. He is a player who can play either in midfield or at the back and his versatility is a major asset."

Asked about his ambitions this season, the Queenslander told rochedalrovers.com.au recently: "To become established in the first team set-up and also make the England



defender Adrian Madaschi.

The centre half joined fellow Division One side Burnley for a trial two weeks ago but Madaschi failed to land a suitable deal with the Turf Moor outfit.

According to reports in Australia, the 21-year-old has attracted the attention of a number of English clubs and the former Atalanta man has since moved to try his luck at Highfield Road.

Madaschi failed to gain a regular first-team place in his six years at Italian side Atalanta and spent time on loan with Monza and Pistoiese.

The defender will be joined by compatriot Andrew Packer, who has also taken a



Scott McDonald: Has been signed to a permanent deal by Wimbledon manager Stuart Murdoch.

U18 squad.

"I have already been scouted by the English selectors."

★ ★ ★ ★

Coventry City have handed a trial to Australian Under-23 international

trial with player-manager Gary McAllister's side.

Aberdeen boss Steve Paterson has admitted he wants to tie down Aussie striker David Zdrilic to a long-term contract.

Zdrilic has scored two goals in the opening two league games of the season and has been outstanding for the Dons so far.

Paterson said to www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk: "We will want to get him tied up for a lot longer than a year if he continues the way he has started.

"He already looks like a big-time player. The combination with (Scott) Booth looks like it could be a potent force for us this season.

"I would expect Zdrilic to be picked for the Australian team again in the near future, which is great for the club, especially as Markus Heikkinen is back in the Finland side.

"It's good to know you have international class players, especially for the money that we got them for."



Craig Moore: Is in doubt for this week's crucial Champions League qualifier against Copenhagen following a hamstring strain.

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STALLIONS SET TO STRIKE

By Peter Damalas

Marconi Stallions have continued a trend among NSL clubs with a brief trip to the Gold Coast as part of pre season training.

The Sydneysiders played their first friendly against Parramatta Power on Wednesday evening, before flying to Queensland on Thursday. The team played two select sides in the Gold Coast and Tweed Heads and returned on Sunday.

The 2-2 draw against the title favourites Parramatta was a positive start for the club which finished second last in the 2002-2003 campaign.

Coach Jean Paul De Marigny was pleased with the effort.

"The match was intense with a good tempo. It was beneficial to play against such a quality side" he said. The club have enjoyed a relatively smooth pre season with key additions

Brad Maloney, Brendan Renaud, Nick Carle and Jeromy Harris bolstering the depth of the first team squad.

"At this stage we are concentrating on making sure that each player knows his job. We are working on the organisation and shape of the team, to work together as a unit. We have a flexible squad" De Marigny said. The coach stated that the make up of the starting eleven for the new campaign has not been finalised.

The one area that Marconi have star quality in is up front and in the creative third.

The transfer of Harris from Olympic has given the strike force an extra edge, while Maloney, Carle and Young Player of the Year, Alex Brosque, form an impressive attacking trio.



**Marconi's danger man
again for this season
will be striker
Alex Brosque.**

The nineteen year old may find the pressure on himself to carry the team is lifted because of the talent now at the club.

"The club have recruited some quality players. We realised that we needed a minimum of four strikers, and last season we didn't have that" De Marigny said.

Brosque will compete with Harris, former Melbourne Knights star Joseph Spiteri, and fellow youngster Kevo Guletsarian for two positions in a 3-5-2 formation. The young star recognises that each player will need to prove himself in order to be selected.

"[Selection] will not be rotation, but will be based purely on form" he said. "The coach will select the players capable of doing the job while there will be two more players ready to come on. This depth was lacking last year. We only had three strikers

and we played with three up front, so we were guaranteed positions in the team".

The 2003-2004 campaign promises to be very important in the playing career of the Marconi striker. On top of his National Soccer League commitments, Brosque is a part of the Young Socceroos squad preparing to compete at the World Youth Championships in the United Arab Emirates at the end of the year. He is also likely to be called up to the Olyroo squad in January.

"Last year was a different experience for me as it was my first full season in the NSL. This time I am looking at things differently and training is a serious matter because of the players fighting for a spot in the team" he said.

Brosque will also bear the burden of expectation after enjoying such success on a personal level last season.

"When you achieve a standard, you don't want to go below it. I put pressure on myself to improve. As a striker, you are never content with the amount of goals scored. I don't think about the good things that are said about me, I can't let it get to my head" he said.

Physically and mentally, the next nine months will be exhausting for Alex Brosque. However, it will serve as adequate preparation for a possible move overseas.

"My main goal at the moment is success in the NSL. I would love to head over next year" he said.

When he was asked about his preferred destination, Brosque said that the technical qualities of Spanish football may suit his style of play.

Marconi play Adelaide City on Saturday in their next fixture.

COACHING POSITION — 2004

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Applications are now being accepted, from suitably qualified coaches, for our Youth League and Federations sides for the 2004 season. Please send your application, in writing, listing qualifications and recent coaching experience to:-

**The Secretary
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Applications must be received by 20th September 2003

Further details, if required, can be obtained from David Bertenshaw (Phone 0413 009 008) or Sue McNally (Phone 0419 694 507)

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Some pages were ommitted from last week's Soccer NSW section. Australian and British Soccer Weekly apologises for the error.

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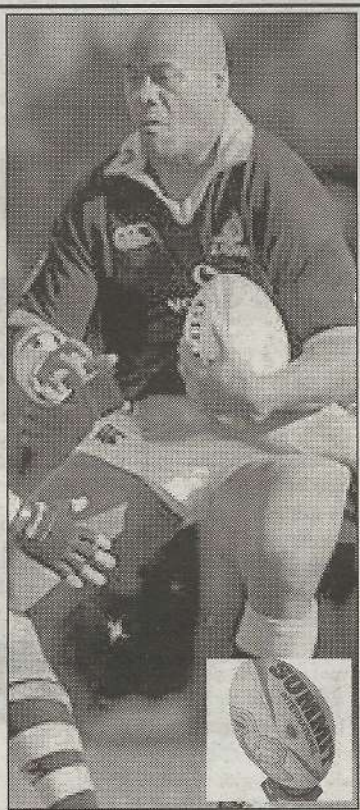
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Through Rugby Eyes: Peter FitzSimons on Soccer



By Joe Russo

He is a former Wallaby, a leading journalist with *The Sydney Morning Herald*, an after dinner speaker and an author of several books and biographies, but in the soccer community he is perhaps seen as a representative of a certain stereotype.

Peter FitzSimons could be seen as representing the typical 'soccer Basher'. A rugby type who simply can't appreciate the skill and subtlety of the real football.

Is it as simple as that or is there more to it? ABSW recently tracked him down in the hope of delving into this genre of thinking in Australian sporting society.

FitzSimons is certainly an interesting, witty and intelligent person.

His regular newspaper columns are not only on rugby or sport in general.

He is often the champion of causes such as chill-out the children out of detention centres campaign.

Soccer may not be his cup of tea, or in the words of FitzSimons "it may not fit my bacon", but is there ever really a chance that the round ball code will eventually dominate the Australian sporting landscape?

"Australia getting into the World Cup is basically the only chance whatsoever of the Australian people getting into it," he said.

"It's a bit like sailing. Once the America's Cup came along and we knew it was a worthwhile cup then everyone became interested. However, once that Cup was achieved we lost interest fairly rapidly."

Leaving aside the sporting comparison, is there something else that could get soc-

cer going on a level playing field? As a nation Australia is passionate about sport but somehow, despite our British colonial heritage, soccer has never really made it. Why is it not possible?

"I hold the view that somewhere deep in the Australian psyche, if you could get

an Australian team can't compete. "Had soccer been an amateur sport worldwide [like rugby was] then our blokes would have probably done alright. The only way that soccer can follow rugby is to go all the way and do what William Webb Ellis did and pick up the ball and run with it."

soccer coverage out there, that would be delivered by one crowd or another."

In a recent FitzSimons column a quote from former Australian captain and soccer icon, Johnny Warren, was reproduced.

In short it implied that FitzSimons typified the 'boofhead' mentality that can't

"I think that is the greatest cliché in sport - that soccer is a sleeping giant. I've been in journalism for basically 20 years now and that's the phrase I've heard over and over again.

Soccer may not be doing much now but by gosh just you wait a little while. I've heard it, I've heard it, I've heard it."

- Peter FitzSimons

to the very core of the Australian male psyche, blokes running into other blokes is what they like," FitzSimons said.

"I don't know why that is but I do believe that is what gets union, league and Aussie rules going. Big blokes running into other big blokes and being cut down, whereas with soccer, with its silky, tricky skills, it just doesn't grab the average male psyche."

FitzSimons, however, is no stranger to soccer having played rugby in France and Italy but nevertheless it still couldn't win him over.

"I lived in Europe for five years and was surrounded by people who absolutely loved soccer. I tried, I really tried but it just couldn't get to you.

"Perhaps I'm psychologically scarred after I captained the Peats Ridge Public [school] soccer team and we lost 13-0 and I remember that we were very lucky to get to nil that day."

With Frank Lowy as Chairman of Soccer Australia and the new board in place it may finally be the big opportunity for soccer in Australia to move beyond its traditional market.

So many false hopes and broken promises have characterised the code in the past.

Soccer has by far the largest participation rate of any sport at junior level and everyone is finally together and totally supportive of the Lowy-led board.

Does FitzSimons believe that soccer is the sleeping giant that is about to pose a real threat to the other football codes?

"No, I think that is the greatest cliché in sport - that soccer is a sleeping giant. I've been in journalism for basically 20 years now and that's the phrase I've heard over and over again.

"Soccer may not be doing much now but by gosh just you wait a little while. I've heard it, I've heard it, I've heard it."

In only a few months Australia will play host to the Rugby World Cup which is ironically a concept that the rah rahs copied from soccer.

However, since the first edition in 1987 the concept, and the code in general, have grown enormously.

Rugby in an event that is enjoyed by all and their world cup is rated as the third biggest sporting event in the world, behind the Olympic Games and the soccer world cup.

Is there something soccer in Australia can copy from rugby in order to turn around their fortunes? How did rugby go from an amateur marginalised sport to a mainstream event?

"I don't believe it was a move made by rugby administrators. Rugby had a global link and tapped into that by getting serious about marketing," FitzSimons said.

"Now soccer has a ten times bigger global link than rugby ever had but it is probably because of that [global link] that

The mainstream media is often accused of not granting enough space or coverage to the round ball code. Perhaps it is a secret agenda to keep soccer marginalised.

"I don't blame the media. It is a bitterly competitive business. We're scratching each other's eyes out between *The Telegraph*, *The Australian*, *The Herald*, *The Age* and the rest of it and all the electronic media, to deliver to the people what they want to read and see.

"It is a really carefully kept calibrated market. If there was a huge demand for

appreciate soccer. From anyone else it would have gone unnoticed but from an icon, such as Warren, it is a different story.

"I mean I wish Johnny Warren well and I really hope he gets better soon but I just let it [the quote] ride and thought it mildly amusing enough to put in my column. The essence of it was this: that poofers play soccer, wogs play soccer etc etc.

"I don't speak like that, I don't think like that and it is so far beyond my kin. What I say is simply that the soccer I see doesn't make my spirit vibrate."

BIRTHDAY BOY

Zeljko Adzic
Born 28 August 1965

SOCCEROO CAREER

Non-A internationals [1990] 1 game

NSL CAREER

Melbourne Knights [1989-89/90] 38 games (24 goals)

Croatian ball-playing magician, born in Pozega Slavenska, Croatia. He played for Dinamo Zagreb in the former Yugoslav league in the mid 1980s and then served a stint in the national army before moving to Hamilton Steelers in Canada in 1987. At Hamilton he scored 28 league goals in two seasons and helped the Croatian-backed club to the 1988 Canadian national league championship.

The 23 year old immediately took the NSL by storm in 1989, scoring nine goals in his first eight games for the Melbourne Knights including a hat-trick in a 4-0 win over South Melbourne in May 1989. He played for two seasons in the national league but unfortunately for the Knights left Australia on the eve of the 1989/90 finals series, after his attacking-midfield exploits had assisted the club to third on the 1989/90 ladder.

It was in this season he took out the NSL player of the year award, and made his sole Socceroo appearance - against the touring Moscow Torpedo at Olympic

Park in February 1990.

After moving back to his homeland amidst a messy transfer from the Knights, Adzic played in Dinamo Zagreb's last season in the old Yugoslav league, where the Croatian club finished second.

In February 1992 he went down in history by scoring the first goal in the first game of the new Croatian national league - albeit in a 'transitional' season as large parts of the new country were under occupation.

In 1992/93 he scored ten goals for Dinamo as the club completely dominated the properly-established Croatian league - the quartet of Adzic, Goran Vlaovic (23 goals), Igor Cvitanovic (15) and Mario Stanic (ten) assisted Dinamo to a huge goal tally of 84 for the season when Dinamo finished seven points in front of Dalmatian rivals Hajduk Split.

After moving on from Dinamo after the 1993/94 season he had stints with Hercules (Spain, 1994/95), Croatian clubs Hrvatski Dragovoljac (1995/96) and Inker Zapresic (1996/97) and Hapoel Beer Sheva (Israel, 1997/98).

He played for the Croatian national team against Ukraine in June 1993 (scoring once in Croatia's 3-1 win) and therefore has the rare and honorable distinction of playing for Australia and another country at the senior level.

Andrew Howe

Kingz to use Ericsson Stadium

Things are looking up for the Football Kingz after days of uncertainty surrounding the Auckland-based soccer club.

Chairman Chris Turner said he had reached an agreement with the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) over unpaid rent (Read on page 12 on what was owed by the Kingz).

At the same time he announced Ericsson Stadium as the Kingz' home ground for 10 of 12 games in the upcoming Australian national league season.

The more important news came in a letter from Soccer Australia to New Zealand Soccer (NZS) which reaffirmed the Australians' desire to have a New Zealand-based team in any revamped league provided any such application had the full backing of the national body.

NZS chief executive Bill MacGowan revealed details of the letter from Soccer Australia which followed a trip across the Tasman 10 days ago by MacGowan, NZS chairman John Morris and New Zealand's Oceania Football Confederation representative Mark Burgess.

MacGowan stressed NZS had no intention of taking over the management of the Football Kingz and neither will it put any money into the club.

"We are governing body. As such we do not put money into a private profit-making body," MacGowan said.

Asked whether he was concerned with the current situation with the Kingz, MacGowan said: "Yes, clearly we are concerned. Negative publicity in any form can have an impact on the game."

MacGowan is keen to have the Kingz' application - to extend their Australian league licence until the end of the 2003-04 season - ready to present to Fifa in late October.

Turner is keen to meet that deadline but said it was not vital.

He dismisses any suggestion of another "entity" challenging for their spot in the league.

"There is no opportunity for a rival bid," Turner said.

"If we meet the criteria we are guaranteed our place."

Turner has no idea how many teams will play in the planned revamped league which is scheduled to start in October next year.

"The NSL clubs have set up committee to look into that and other issues."

Turner said the dispute with the ARC had been settled but refused to give any details and declined to say whether any of the almost \$60,000 owed for rent had been paid.

"It has been settled."

Turner left for England to meet new club shareholder Brian Katzen, of the Chelsea club, and travel with him to Swansea City with a view of establishing an arrangement with that club.

The Kingz and Chelsea have established ties which will see two players from the London-based club join the Kingz this season.



NZ's chief executive Bill MacGowan was the Kingz license to extend a further year in the NSL.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR KLADIS

By Peter Damalas

Despite the wholesale clear out of players from the Olympic Sharks squad during the off season, one area that remains strong is the heart of defence.

In Scott Baillie, George Souris and Paul Kohler, the grand finalists have plenty of experience and ability. These qualities will certainly be required as coach Peter Papanikitas hopes to blend players with NSL experience with those younger players recruited from state league clubs.

One player that will add depth to the team in the centre of the park and in the defensive third is Michael Kladis. The former St George and Parramatta Melita player has worked with veteran coaches Frank Arok, Zoran Matic and Manfred Schaefer during his time as a Marconi junior, and the words of wisdom passed down will help carry him through a

maiden NSL season.

In a possible 3-5-2 formation, Kladis may find himself used as a sweeper or as a defensive midfielder. He will inherit the positions vacated by players of the calibre of former captain Ante Juric, Andrew Durante, Jade North and Wayne Sroj.

"From a personal point of view, I'd like to establish myself in the starting line up and be consistent week in week out" he said.

Kladis also mentioned that most players recruited in the past few weeks are capable of playing in more than one area of the field.

"There is variety there to try different things. The players we have here are not one position players, which is a good thing, and the coach will find this useful" he said.

While a group of sixteen players has been assembled, up to five more players may join the squad.

Twenty two players were available for the trial match played against

Sydney United last Sunday.

"The match itself was pretty scrappy, but we got better as the game went on" he said.

"The squad is not fully settled and it has been difficult learning to play



Michael Kladis: One of Olympic's new recruits set to sign this season.

with each other the way the coach wants us to".

Despite the pressure of finalising a new squad, Kladis maintains that the spirit in the club is at a high level.

"People have written us off and we know that, but we are confident.

There are five to six players with NSL experience and they will be leading the way. Our morale is good and we know that we will be competitive.

"The players are taking the attitude that this is a chance that may not have come along" he said.

While his teammates may have the experience, Kladis is certainly not shy when it comes to organising the team from the back.

"I guess I do talk a lot" he said. "I read the game and I make sure I don't panic" he said.

Coach Papanikitas may find in Michael Kladis a player who can take on a leadership role alongside the veterans in the Olympic squad.

Kewell finds perfection on Merseyside

Harry Kewell says he has found fitting in at Liverpool easier than he expected and that Gerard Houllier has made the premier league club "perfect" to play for.

The Australian international forward, who left

Leeds United last month to move to Anfield in a controversial five million pound (US\$7.97 million) transfer, has quickly found his feet. "It's hard to describe how I've found it at Liverpool and the only word that comes close is perfect," the 24-year-

old said. "Everything about the training set-up, to the facilities and the way the players are looked after is perfect.

It's made the move from Leeds a lot easier and I already feel very much at home here."

Kewell's ability to get behind opposing defences on either flank was a major part of the reason why he was so attractive to Houllier, whose side was accused of being boring and predictable last season.

Liverpool finished fifth in the premier league last season — their worst placing since 1999 — and won only nine league games at Anfield.

That puts pressure on Kewell to impress.

"I don't mind people expecting me to do well," Kewell said.

"People may think it is putting more weight on my shoulders but I like that. I

want to do well and put pressure on myself. Other people also expecting the same will spur me on. I wasn't happy with my debut. I could have done a lot better than I did and I know I can improve on it. It's always disappointing when you lose as well and I'm on a bit of a downer from it as I was so keen to do well. How can I improve? By helping Liverpool win matches, it's as simple as that. There's certainly room for improvement from Sunday."

Houllier spoke about a special role he had planned for Kewell this season and was given the freedom to roam behind England strikers Michael Owen and Emile Heskey.

"The manager hasn't had a chance to talk to me about the match yet," he said. "But he hasn't told me there is one way I will play all season. I think a lot of it is down to who we are playing in each individual game and how we intend to play."

"But my favourite position is on the right side of pitch. People say because I'm left-footed I should always play on the left, but I disagree. If I play on the right I have the chance to cut in on my stronger foot and still can go outside of players if I have to. Talking about my position is academic though as I will always be happy to play wherever the manager decides is best."

He also said he was still keen to play for his country



Harry Kewell: Settling down well at Anfield.

despite falling out with Soccer Australia over the handling of a complaint about the role of his adviser Bernie Mandic in the transfer to Liverpool.

"It's very important to me to play for Australia," he said.

"The team has a good spirit and it's good that (Australia manager) Frank Farina is having games in Europe. It makes it easier for clubs to release players and easier for us as we only have an hour or two's flight."

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MORRISON SINKS ROOS



Mark Viduka shown celebrating his goal against the Irish breaking his goal drought for the Socceroos.

The Socceroos have been defeated 2-1 in their friendly international against the Republic of Ireland played at Lansdowne Rd, Dublin last week.

Playing for the first time since their historic win over England in February,

the team had the better of the first half and opened the scoring through Mark Viduka in the 49th minute before two goals in the last 20 minutes sank the Australians.

Frank Farina made three changes from that which beat England - Hayden Foxe

came in for the injured Craig Moore, Marco Bresciano came in for a travel-weary Josip Skoko, with Harry Kewell's late withdrawal due to an achilles problem meaning a starting spot for Danny Tiatto.

The first half saw the Australians create a number of good openings with Marco Bresciano rocking the crossbar with a fierce 20 metre drive after just 12 minutes. Within a matter of moments Tiatto, playing his first match for Australia since mid-2001, also had two good opportunities but he was unable to convert either chance.

With Chelsea star Damien Duff well shackled by Socceroo fullback Lucas Neill, the home side were restricted to just one genuine sight of goal in the first half with Robbie Keane forcing a good save from Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

Viduka put Australia in the lead four minutes after the interval when he finished coolly from close range after a pinpoint Stan Lazaridis cross from the left flank.

Viduka could have made it 2-0 some 10 minutes later but was unable to convert a 'one-on-one' with opposition goalkeeper Nick Colgan closing the angle down well. Bresciano's fol-

low up shot was also well saved by the Irish custodian.

The home side started to get on top midway through the second half and finally broke through in the 74th minute when Manchester United's John O'Shea headed in from close range after Ian Harte's free kick from near the corner flag.

The winner for the Irish finally came in the 81st minute when a clever ball over the top by Harte found substitute Clinton Morrison in the clear and he somehow managed to roll the ball past Schwarzer and into the net despite the despairing efforts of Tony Vidmar to prevent the ball entering the goal.

Despite the result Socceroo coach Frank Farina was pleased with his side's performance in what was their first senior international against the Republic of Ireland "It's very disappointing to lose the game after the manner in which we played," he said.

"We had three one on ones, hit the bar, that's life, that's football.

But the manner in which we played was very, very good. We had a period in the second-half in which they got on top of us. The pleasing thing was that we created a lot of opportunities and not to get anything

out of the game is very disappointing."

The Socceroos will be in action again next month when they take on Jamaica in England in a friendly international to be played at

Reading's Madejski Stadium on Sunday 7th September, kick off 2pm (London time).

MATCH STATISTICS

Republic of Ireland 2
(John O'Shea 74', Clinton Morrison 81')
Australia 1
(Mark Viduka 49')

Republic of Ireland: Colgan; Carr (Harte 58'), Breen (O'Brien h/t), Cunningham (Dunne 84'), O'Shea; Finnan (Kilbane 67'), Kinsella, Holland (Healy 19'), Duff (Quinn 79'); Keane (Connolly 44'), Doherty (Morrison 58').
Australia: Schwarzer; Neill, Foxe, Popovic, Lazaridis; Emerton, Okon (Grella 67'), Bresciano, Tiatto (Vidmar 69'); Viduka (Aloisi 77'), Chipperfield.

Cautions: Okon 47'

Referee: Karel Vidiak (Czech Republic)

We can compete with anyone: Farina



Frank Farina is confident that the Roos can match it with anyone.

The result frustrated Frank Farina but the form and depth of his Socceroos in their 2-1 loss to Ireland showed him they could compete with any team in the world.

Australia let a 1-0 second half lead slip to go down in their friendly international at Lansdowne Road after Marco Bresciano, Hayden Foxe and Danny Tiatto stepped in with aplomb to a team which dominated much of the match.

It wasn't as significant as the 3-1 win over England six months ago but, with a long World Cup qualifying path ahead and more friendlies in store - starting with Jamaica on September 7 - Farina was encouraged by the changes he had to make to the team which beat the English.

Tiatto came in for striker Harry Kewell who was a late withdrawal with an Achilles tendon strain, defender Foxe played his first international in two years

in place of the injured Craig Moore and forward Bresciano replaced Josip Skoko who only joined the team in Dublin late on Monday night.

They were among Australia's best players and will be automatic choices for the match against Jamaica in Reading, just outside London.

"I believe we've got a lot of good players coming through," Farina said.

"When players get opportunities like they did tonight, the likes of Tiatto, Foxe and Bresciano, and they can handle it, it just makes my job a lot easier knowing that in big games if we do lose players we've got the quality who can step in and do the job.

"The manner in which we played, if we continue to do that, we'll compete with any team."

Lucas Neill and Brett Emerton combined to shut down classy Irish forward

Damien Duff for most of the night, the Australian defence broke quickly and effectively and Paul Okon directed traffic with authority in midfield.

"It would have been nice to have had a 2-0 cushion," Farina said.

"And we were right on top at that stage so we would have deservedly gone 2-0 up.

"It's very disappointing to lose the game after the manner in which we played, we played very, very well.

"We had three one on ones, hit the bar, that's life, that's football."

Ireland coach Brian Kerr and Morrison both conceded Australia was unlucky to lose.

"Australia played very well as I expected. They seem to have a lot of desire and I think it is very hard on them that they lost the match overall," Kerr said.

JOEYS END WORLD CUP WINLESS

The Joeys have been defeated 2-0 by Costa Rica in their final-match at the FIFA U-17 World Championship in Turku, Finland having once again been reduced to ten men following a first half red card.

After having Nigel Boogaard sent off in the first half of their opening match against Argentina last week, the Australians this time lost striker Matt Hilton when he was handed a straight red card in the 39th minute for a relatively innocuous challenge on an opponent.

Playing in driving rain chances were limited for both teams in the first half, though Nick Crossley was called on to make a good save in halting a Costa Rican breakaway in the 31st minute.

Six minutes after the interval Boogaard shaved the post with a header in what proved

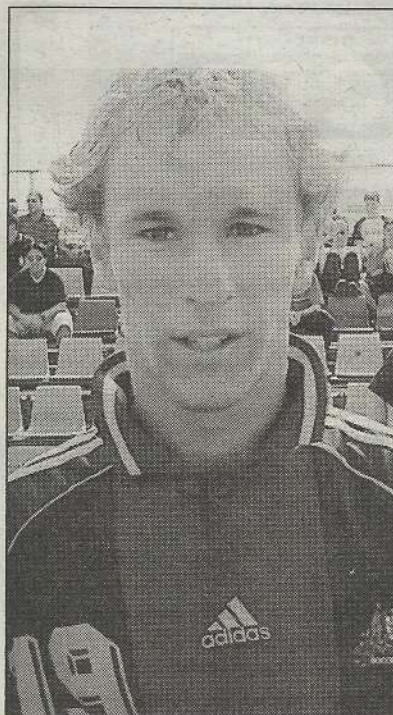
MATCH STATISTICS

Costa Rica 2
(Pablo Rodriguez 62' pen, Alonso Salazar 75')
Australia 0

Australia: Nick Crossley (gk); Ben Griffin, Nigel Boogaard, Keegan Wolfenden, Jacob Timpano, Kristian Sarkies (Angelo Martino 54'), Adam Casey, Matt Christensen (Matthew Deegan 74'), Adrian Leijer, Dane Richardson, Matt Hilton

Cautions: Timpano 9', Wolfenden 58', Christensen 68'

Expulsions: Hilton 39'
Attendance: 5,424



Joeys striker Matthew Hilton was given his marching orders early in the first half.

to be the best chance of the game for the Joeys.

Costa Rica broke through for the opening goal in the 62nd minute when they were awarded a penalty after Boogaard was adjudged to have fouled his opponent in the box. Pablo Rodriguez converted and with Costa Rica requiring a win by at least two goals to advance to the quarter finals a place in the next round beckoned.

The Joeys defended valiantly but finally the second and final goal came in the 75th minute from striker Alonso Salazar.

However, the same player was sent off five minutes later after receiving a yellow card for diving.

The 2-0 scoreline meant Costa Rica finished equal with Nigeria on points, goal difference and goals scored and with the earlier group match between the two finishing 1-1, a drawing of lots was needed to decide which team would advance to the quarter finals with luck falling the way of the Central Americans.

The Joeys arrived back in Australia last Friday morning.

Victorian Premier League Final 2002/03

Green Gully Cavaliers Crowned Victorian Champions

On a very wet, cold and windy night at the Melbourne Knights Stadium, over 3000 supporters of the Green Gully Cavaliers and Frankston Pines witnessed a high quality Crazy John's Victorian Premier League Grand Final in which the Greens triumphant over a tough Pines side one-nil.

Green Gully had come into the match as strong favourites, and rightly so. The Cavaliers finished second placed on the final standings, and defeated the minor Premier, Preston Lions in the Major Semi Final at BT Connor Reserve, in front of 4000 spectators. Frankston Pines, newly promoted to the Premier League in 2003, had scraped into the finals series, and had had their backs to the wall since round 21 of 22 in the home and away season. In round 21, Frankston supporters travelled to Green Gully Reserve, knowing only victory would keep their finals hopes alive. In the Frankston's Nick Waite, set to join the Melbourne Knights, scored a winner to enable the Pines passage to the finals.

One last minute equaliser, a sudden death goal and two penalty shootouts, in a fairy tale story, saw the Pines enter the Grand Final against Green Gully. A remarkable finish to the season, that saw coach Stan Webster win the VSF's coach of the year award, and one of his three sons in the Frankston team, Stuart Webster - rumoured to be on his way to South Melbourne, take out the VSF goalkeeper of the year award.

The grand final match started very positively, both teams were



Green Gully Cavaliers; Winners are Grinners.

playing for victory and the loyal supporters of both teams were treated a memorable cup final that will live long in the memories.

Andy Vargas, with a reputation for freekick scoring, needed no invitation after just fifteen minutes. His freekick had Pines keeper Stuart Webster diving to his low right corner, seemingly beaten, but the ball hit the post and went out for a goalkick. The Green Gully midfield, were outstanding from the beginning of the match, Henry Velkovski, Brandon Vassallo,

Jeffrey Fleming and Andy Vargas ran like racehorses all night, leaving in its tracks, no doubt, an exhausted Frankston team.

Up forward for Green Gully were Nick Tsaltas and Adrian Cervinski, who like many Gully players playing at their former home ground of the Knights Stadium. Coach Ian Dobson, won an NSL title with the Melbourne Knights in 1996 and is now returning their club. Tonight's grand final victory, gives Ian Dobson a three championship in five year record for the Cavaliers in Victoria. Both Nick Tsaltas and Adrian Cervinski figured amongst the play in the first half.

Despite many chances, both teams went into the half-time break scoreless. With Frankston winning two shootouts, and Green Gully missing penalties in open play during the season, the equation for Ian Dobson's men at half-time was score and win, or miss chances and suffer the same consequence as Preston. In fact, Dobson and his team knew this, and began the second half in desperation for a goal.

After a few early chances, Brandon Vassallo played a delightful through ball right through the middle of the Frankston defense, Pines keeper Stuart Webster came off his line to meet the ball, but Gully top scorer, Nick Tsaltas was first to the ball evaded the challenge from Stuart Webster and slotted the ball home for the lead. Tsaltas ran to the wild celebrations of the Green Gully supporters.

The match had really opened up at this point, with Frankston needing to score.

However, Gully maintained the pressure. Henry Velkovski and Simon Storey both ran at the Frankston defense, but just couldn't find space to have a shot on goal. Eventually Simon Storey would get his chance, but only keeper of the year Stuart Webster could prevent a second Gully goal.

Simon Storey, who finished 4th in the voting of Victoria's player of the year, won the VSF's Under 21 Player of the year award, and also won tonight's Man of the Match award. Simon will now join South Melbourne for the upcoming NSL season.

Frankston coach introduced Peter Hader, and in tandem with Nick Waite, Frankston went in search of an equaliser. With just ten minutes play, the ball had fallen to the feet of Nick Waite who had virtually an open goal to score into, his shot was blocked and Cameron Leopold followed up. Defender Zoran Markovski, scrambled the shot away off the line, Peter Hader then scissor kicked the ball onto the crossbar. Frankston should have scored.

Ian Dobson then introduced substitute Anthony Magnacca. Magnacca would have a couple of golden opportunities to finish off the match, but again Pines keeper Stuart Webster kept Frankston

The former NSL club had won the Victorian title five times previously (1981,82,83 and 1999 and 2000), but this is the first time it won the title in a grand final, on in the match.

Speaking to Victorian writer Bert Van Bedaf, victorious coach Ian Dobson was over-joyed about their first finals victory.

"We played some good football on a difficult ground and got the winning goal" Dobson said. "Personally, this was the sweetest win because when I took up the position of coaching the Melbourne Knights and was doing both jobs (Green Gully's finals campaign and Knights pre-season), some people thought I'd given up on Green Gully. "This proves that I hadn't and that I've worked hard to get Green Gully this title," he said.

Meanwhile losing Pines coach Stan Webster added "When (Zoran) Markovski saved off the line, we looked the stronger team for a while and maybe we could have forced the golden goal. But we didn't," Webster said.

"We did have an excellent season and to make it to the grand final was fantastic. We just fell a bit short," he said.



Aerial action shown above in this years VPL final.

2003 Premier League Top Goal Scorers - Final Standings

- 16 - Joe Tricarico (Whittlesea)
- 12 - Peter Hader (Frankston)
- 11 - Nick Waite (Frankston)
- 10 - Nick Tsaltas (Green Gully)
- 9 - Zoran Petrevski (Altona Magic)
- 9 - Peter Kakos (Bentleigh)
- 9 - Saso Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
- 9 - Andy Vargas (Green Gully)

FINAL STANDINGS VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Preston Lions SC	22	14	5	3	39	19	47
2. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	22	13	5	4	41	14	44
3. Altona Magic SC	22	13	5	4	44	20	44
4. Frankston Pines SC	22	11	5	6	49	29	38
5. Whittlesea Stallions SC	22	12	2	8	35	31	38
6. St Albans Saints SC	22	11	3	8	25	23	36
7. Essendon Royals SC	22	10	5	7	25	24	35
8. Fawkner Blues SC	22	9	4	9	31	35	31
9. Bulleen Zebras SC	22	6	6	10	31	35	24
10. Bentleigh Greens SC	22	5	6	11	24	38	21
11. Altona East Phoenix SC	22	2	4	16	19	42	10
12. Port Melb Sharks SC	22	0	2	20	14	67	2



Green Gully youngster Simon Storey pick up the Man of the Match Award.

Photos courtesy of Steven Gray

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves Near Completion of Squad

Within a week or so Coach John Turner and assistant John Calleja will work with their final squad numbers – only 3 or 4 spots are being looked at. Around 18 to 20 players is the final target.

Listening to John Turner, he is encouraged to have assembled a "Happy" bunch of players, eager to tackle the 'big shots' in the NSL. Trial matches, even though the results are not much to go by because of constant rotation of player, they give an indication of where the Wolves or for that matter their opponents 'are' at this time – showing up their stage of preparations.

Next weekend Sunday 31/8. the Wolves play against a touring Japanese side Shenzhen Jianliabao at Parklea, Sydney at 6pm with the Youth team playing prior against Leichhardt Youth grade.

The first competition match for the Wolves is on Friday 19/9. at WIN Stadium against Sydney United. Coach John Turner is convinced by then his carefully planned torrid training schedule has sharpened a competitive Wolves team eager to show their supporters what they can achieve.

Local Boys Going Overseas

Chris Smith (19) playing striker for the Warilla Wanderers left recently for Spain. The club has arranged a two weeks trial for the youngster with a Spanish Primera Liga club. If successful

Chris is looking for a contract to develop his talents and possibly

graduate to a first division senior in the highly rated Spanish Premier League competition. It is great to see a local soccer player given the chance at top level.

Wolves Cubs Doing Well

Eddie Tesoro, the Wolves Youth Development Officer, sees his system working with rotating youngsters from the club's U/17's side with his own youth grade squad.

The success of both teams proves him right. The Wolves Youth Grade this year reached the NSL Youth league Grand Final.

The U/17's under coach Tony Pace playing at present in the winter competition are with one round to go in 2nd spot. Playing Newcastle in the final round they can win the league championship since only one point adrift. The team were last year League Premier.

Several U/17 players are joining Eddie's U/19's youth squad despite their tender age. It will be evened out with the next winter season seeing an U/18's to replace this year's U/17's competition.

Eddie works to assemble a squad of 16 players plus several talented U/18's active in the winter period, training in the NSL summer season with the Wolves youth team. This coming season 3 local youngsters from Illawarra Premier League clubs and one from Conference League are invited to join the Wolves Cubs.

In recent trials the young Wolves had wins over Fraser Park and Manly Warringah, shaping up well.

The coach intends to take his squad into a 3-day camp at the end

of the month and is already preparing for another overseas trip in April 2004 to play on invitation again in the FIFA Youth tournament in France and also visit England and Germany. Contacts are being followed up in the next few months.

Minor Premier Coach His Say -

Adrian "Noddy" Alston, coach of Premier League champion Port Kembla, in his 10th season, considers his team's effort as 'awesome'. His policy of rotating players worked well – winning 15 games from 21, only 2 draws and 4 lost, scoring 55 for and 20 against. Noddy will be back as Port's mentor next year – 'too young' to retire was his comment.

Port's youth team also won the league championship, well ahead on points while Reserve Grade runs 5th at present. The club is placed well to be named the Illawarra Club Champion.



Port Kembla coach Adrian "Noddy" Alston.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA FINAL ROUND RESULTS

Fairmont Bianco Top 5 Soccer Series

Results day 1 Saturday 23rd August 2003-Marden.

Premier League - Elimination Final.

Adelaide Galaxy ...1 White City0

Best Players.
Robin Welch
Steven Kidd
Sasha Utjesenovic

Brad Armour
Michael Keens
Chad Bugeja

Goal-Scorers
Steven Kidd [92min]

Premier League - Qualifying Final.

Raiders1 Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 [Golden Goal]

Best Players.
Sam Barbaro
Mark Yates
Billy Karapetis

Nick Budin
Hugo Rosales
Pedro Durran

Goal-Scorers
Jason Trimboli

Nick Budin
Pablo Durran

STATE LEAGUE Under 23. Elimination - Final.

Adelaide Hills ...0 [4] Western Strikers ...0 [3] penalties

Best Players.
D. Vyden
S. Hermell
P. Oaks

N. Lepio
A. Patane
D. Barca

STATE LEAGUE Under 23 Qualifying - Final.

Pirates5 Panthers2

Best Players.
N. Tattoli
D. Iacopetta
G. Fletcher

J. Honeysett
G. Kwas
S. Koehne

Goal-Scorers
P. Matteo (2)
M. Barbato
D. Puyehbroek
F. Clemente

A. Rideout
B. Cooper

STATE LEAGUE Under 19. Elimination - Final.

Northern Demons ...2 Cumberland Utd ...1

Best Players.
A. Introna
N/A
A. Amey
L. Saraceno

Goal-Scorers
J. Mezzini
N/A
A. Amey

STATE LEAGUE Under 19 Qualifying - Final.

Campbelltown City Vs Noarlunga Utd
Game Postponed due to water logged pitch.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
METRO STARS.	22	17	4	1	53	19	34	55
RAIDERS	22	17	3	2	62	26	36	54
ADEL BLUE EAGLES	22	10	4	8	24	27	-3	34
ADELAIDE GALAXY	22	9	5	8	37	23	14	32
WHITE CITY WARRIORS	22	9	5	8	35	29	6	32
ENFIELD CITY	22	9	4	9	41	37	4	31
OLYMPIC F.C.	22	8	5	9	43	46	-3	29
ADELAIDE CITY	22	8	3	11	26	35	-9	27
CROYDON KINGS	22	6	5	11	32	45	-13	23
MODBURY	22	6	3	13	23	36	-13	21
PARA HILLS KNIGHTS	22	5	3	14	31	47	-16	18
PLAYFORD PATRIOTS	22	4	4	14	29	66	-37	16

Knights youngster Rocco: "I risked Euro deal for World Cup chance"

Daniel Rocco turned down the chance of a European contract because he wants to make a late run for U20 World Cup selection.

The Melbourne Knights midfielder has been flying in preseason trials and is expected to play a major role in Ian Dobson's campaign this season.

Fortuna Dusseldorf were keen to sign Rocco, but the young Aussie told tribalfutbol.com: "I was flattered, most definitely. But I do have a burning ambition to break into the Australia U20 squad. I know I'm leaving it late, but I look around at my rivals in midfield and genuinely believe I can add something to the squad."

"I just had to take this risk. I know I disappointed Fortuna, in fact I'm getting emails from many of the players even now asking if I'll be returning."

"But I just had to give myself this chance of making a late run for the Australia squad." Rocco's agent, Lou Sticca, said last week: "Initially I was



bemused by Daniel's decision. He had a great chance there at Dusseldorf."

"But after sitting down with Daniel this week and listening to him speak of what he wants to do, I'm convinced he's made the right choice."

"He wants to play in a World Cup. Even when you have guys of the cali-

bre of Thomas Berthold (general manager) and Massimo Morales (head coach) wanting you at Dusseldorf, to risk that by going for your dream, well you just have to take your hat off to the lad."

Knights coach Dobson has played Rocco at sweeper and in a defensive midfield position in the last two trials games and the youngster has impressed. "I feel in great form and really want to do well for the Knights," added Rocco.

"Obviously, I'd love another chance at Fortuna and I hope they understand my desire to get to a World Cup."

"But my priority now is the Knights and playing as well as I can for them. If I can catch coach Ang Postecoglou's eye in the process, then the risk will be well worth it."

Strikers to snare ex-Carlton stars

Former Carlton teammates Alex Moreira and Con Anthopoulos are in talks with the Brisbane Strikers.

Both players are out of contract and are keen to join new coach Stuart McClaren's line-up this season at Brisbane. Moreira has spent the past two seasons with Newcastle United and told tribalfutbol.com recently that he was "excited" by the prospect of playing in Queensland.

"I was born to play for Brisbane," the Brazilian said last week. Moreira was on the verge of signing with Sydney Olympic this season however a minor glitch ended his chances of playing with the Blues this season. Known for his 'samba' skill, his attacking abilities are certainly one of the stars main aspects.

Anthopoulos on the other hand was with the Football Kingz last season and McClaren is keen to bring the stylish defender north as a replacement for Jon McKain.

Con has been busy of late and only recently returned



Alex Moreira has been targeted by the Brisbane Strikers.

from Greece after the defender took part in the Australia-Greek side that took part and won the 'Elliniada Games' in Thessaloniki.

Meanwhile, the Brisbane Strikers coaching staff have been very impressed by young trialist Anthony Paolino. A native Queenslander, Paolino has returned to Brisbane after several years in Italy with Torino.

The youngster played senior football last season on-loan with Serie D outfit Pinerol.

Paolino is hopeful of winning a contract at Brisbane and sources close to the Strikers say the he has impressed coaching staff in pre-season trials.

The side has already signed former Sydney United midfielder Louis Brain.

Glory Chasing Italian

Dundee United fullback Daniele Chiarini is chasing a contract in Australia. Aussie champs Perth Glory have been offered the chance to sign the 24 year-old, who has been released from his Tannadice contract.

Chiarini's signing would be a massive coup for Glory, with Brescia having expressed an interest in bringing the defender back to the Serie A this year. A source close to the player told tribalfutbol.com last night: "Daniele is definitely keen to play in Australia."

"It might seem a strange move for a player of his stature, but he likes to try different cultures and after playing in Scotland he's now ready to try somewhere else."

"He's well aware of the big expat population in Perth and also the city's



Daniele Chiarini eyeing a Glory contract?

strong Italian community. He thinks he'd settle very quickly over there."

Chiarini lit up the SPL last season when he first signed with Partick Thistle on recommendation of former Fiorentina teammate Lorenzo Amoruso. He moved to Dundee United in January, but the arrival of new manager Ian McCall eventually led to the right-sided defender being released from his contract at the end of last season.

The signing of Chiarini could well be welcomed by new recruit and former Socceroo Shaun Murphy.

The former Sheffield United star kicked-off pre season with his new squad last week.



Queensland Lions Soccer Club

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www.qldlions.com



Premier League Round 22

By Glenn Davis

LIONS CROWNED QLD KINGS

By Glenn Davis

Coach Bobby Hamilton believes shock premier league semi-finalist Palm Beach can deny premiers Queensland Lions a slice of soccer history in next weekend's Queensland Cup final and the looming semi-final series.

Palm Beach grabbed a surprise back door entry into the Brisbane premier league finals after downing Souths 1-nil away while Taringa Rovers dropped out of the top four for the first time this year following a nil-all draw with Toowoomba.

Brisbane City finished second on the table to earn a shot at third placed Pine Rivers in the home-and-away semi-finals legs after a hard fought 1-all draw with Rochedale.

Pine Rivers sealed third place by downing North Star 1-nil at home in another tight encounter.

Queensland Lions, which had a comfortable 4-1 win over Ipswich Knights, are attempting to create soccer history in this State by becoming the first side to win the four pieces of silverware in consecutive seasons.

Lions set the benchmark last year when they won the Silverboot, Queensland Cup, premiership and grand

final and are short priced favourites to repeat the feat this year.

Palm Beach turned their season around with a 4-2 win over Taringa in the second last round of the season and followed up with a tough 1-nil win over Souths to capitalise on a Taringa's draw again Toowoomba.

Hamilton was not overly surprised Palm Beach made the finals but he was stunned when he learned his side made it at Taringa's expense.

"I thought we'd make it but I thought it would be in place of Pine Rivers," Hamilton said.

"I didn't think Taringa would draw with Toowoomba, but I always thought North Star were a chance of drawing with Pine Rivers."

Palm Beach rode into the semi-finals on the back of a Peter Grierson free-kick in the first half.

"We've had a skeleton squad for most of the year which has forced us to keep the same side," Hamilton said.

"We didn't have Russell Miner against Souths because he had the 'flu but I think we would have scored a lot more if he was there."

"We're playing good football now and if we can get everyone on the park against Lions in the Queensland Cup final next week we'll give them a run for



Coach Bobby Hamilton believes Palm Beach could shock the QLD Lions in the semi-finals.

their money."

Lions scored a resounding 5-2 win over Palm Beach in the first round before the Gold Coast club stunned Lions with a 1-nil win in the second round.

"Even tho we lost 5-2 in the first round we outplayed Lions in the first half of that game and I believe they would agree," Hamilton said.

"We led them twice in the game the first time but in the second round which we won it was a lot more even."

Hamilton was never greatly concerned about Palm Beach's fate against Souths.

"We dominated most of the game but couldn't put the ball away," he said.

"I think my players were a bit nervy not knowing the other results and whether they had made the finals or not."

"Souths were quite motivated considering they had nothing to play for."

While Hamilton was ecstatic to be in the semi-finals, it was all gloom at Jack Speare Park after Taringa failed to crack Toowoomba's defence.

Taringa only needed to score once to cement a finals berth but were denied by some brilliant goalkeeping from Toowoomba's Trevor Gilliland.

"It's very disappointing especially as we were running second for the first 15 rounds," said Taringa coach John Ogen.

"We've been creating chances but not finishing them off."

"Our ground is quite bad at this time of the season and it was always going to be hard against Toowoomba in the last round."



Peter Grierson: Bagged the only goal for Palm Beach in their one-nil victory over Souths United.

"They have a great defence and they showed why they've got about the second best defensive record in the league."

Taringa's best chance fell for reliable scorer Craig Slaughter who missed only metres out when Gilliland pulled off a miraculous save in the opening five minutes.

"It was a great move which finished with Steve Unsworth dummying inside the box for Craig but unfortunately he couldn't beat their keeper from close range," Ogden said.

Coach Frank Pimblett fears for Brisbane City's finals hopes against Pine Rivers after a Jekyll-and-Hyde performance against Rochedale.

Brisbane City led 1-nil at half time after Raj Kumar slotted home following a quick free kick, which took a deflection in the 7th minute.

However, Rochedale fought back after the break and eventually grabbed the equaliser with five minutes remaining.

"We should have lost and there's no denying it," Pimblett said.

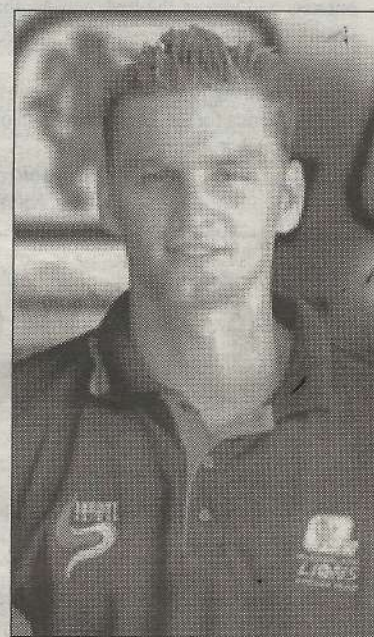
"Our goal keeper Chris Nardoza saved us. He had a superb game."

"This draw gives me something to think about for the finals as we could have missed finishing second if we'd lost."

Brisbane City has never beaten Pine Rivers in their two meetings this year, losing 2-1 in the first round before drawing 1-all in their second clash.

"We won't be under-estimating Pine Rivers," Pimblett said.

"But if we play like we did against



Warren Moon starred for the QLD Lions in their four-one win over the Ipswich Knights.

Rochedale it will be all over in five minutes."

Pimblett, who was a past coach of Pine Rivers, is not looking further than the immediate semi-final clash but regards Palm Beach as the form side of the second round.

"Taringa missing out was a real surprise but Palm Beach is probably the form side of the second round," he said.

Pine Rivers retained third spot when goal sneak Barry Browett broke a deadlock with 20 minutes to go against North Star.

North Star keeper Anthony Hall denied Pine Rivers on numerous occasions and was a deserved man-of-the-match in the eyes of Pine Rivers coach Clayton Koch.

"We had quite a few chances but their keeper had a blinder," Koch said.

"Darren Bender had three or four clear chances and Browett had two or three himself but Hall saved them all."

Pine Rivers broke the deadlock for a deserved win when a Bender shot rebounded off Hall allowing the nippy striker to retrieve and set-up Browett from close range.

Koch is expecting a tight and physical semi-final showdown with Brisbane City.

"It won't be easy against Brisbane City. We beat them 2-1 in the first round but in the second round they were leading 2-1 with five minutes to go when we got a late equaliser."

"We'll have a full strength and fit side for Brisbane City and all are cards have been cleared," Koch said.

Premier League: Pine Rivers 1 (Barry Browett) d North Star 0Brisbane City 1 (Raj Kumar) v Rochedale 1 (Garreth Dorey) Qld Lions 4 (Terry Hughes, Lawrence Drake, Luke Farinazzo, Chris Disipio) d Ipswich Knights 1 (TimReece) Taringa 0 v Toowoomba 0 Palm Beach 1 (Peter Grierson) d Souths 0 Wynnum 2 (Aaron Thiesfield, Owen Filewood) d Gap 0

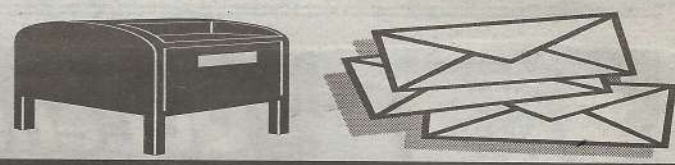
2003 Premiers: Qld Lions

	P	W	L	D	PT
QLD LIONS	22	18	2	2	56
BRIS. CITY	22	11	5	6	39
PINE RIVERS	22	11	6	5	38
PALM BEACH	22	11	7	4	37
TARINGA	22	10	6	6	36
ROCHEDALE	22	10	9	3	33
TOOWOOMBA	22	8	8	6	30
WYNNUM	22	8	9	5	29
NORTH STAR	22	7	10	5	26
SOUTHS	22	6	13	3	21
IPSWICH KN	22	3	14	5	14
THE GAP	22	2	16	4	10

First Division: Mitchelton 1 d Uni Qld 0; Beenleigh 3d Olympic 1; Inala 1 d Peninsula 0; Albany Creek 2 v Capalaba 2; Easts 2 d Redlands 1; Rocklea 3 d Newmarket 1

2003 Premiers: Easts

Letters to the Editor



WELL DONE ROOS

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to the Socceroos for their performance against the Republic of Ireland. Although they narrowly lost, there were many positive aspects for Frank Farina to take from the match.

As a proud Irishman, I was quite concerned for sustained periods of the match. I was particularly impressed with the way Australia brought the ball out of defence.

Their ability to find their range and pass with accuracy from the edge of their penalty area to the opposite end of the field was a lot better than many other nations that consider themselves at the top of the international tree.

While they were undone by the commitment and guts of the Irish players, the Okon's, Neill's and Bresciano's showed their worth.

If Oceania are to be matched up against South America for the World Cup, I am of the opinion that Australia can win.

Sean Coulter.
Glebe, NSW.



Marco Bresciano was one of the Roos stand-out players against the Irish last week.

JOEYS MISHAP

Dear Sir,

What happened to the Joeys at the world championships?

After such a promising lead up, it was disappointing to hear and read about their early exit, especially considering some of the players they had at their disposal.

Lets hope the Under 21s can make up for the Joeys later in the year.

I'd like to inquire why there is no coverage of the tournament on television in Australia. I for one would be very interested to watch the tournament unfold, and witness the best young players in the world.

You don't get to see results such as the 5-5 match very often!

Brianha Thomas.
Sunshine, VIC.

READ THE FINE PRINT

Dear Sir,

I refer to Ryan Andersen's letter in last weeks ABSW.

I just wish people would read more than the headlines when it comes to celebrity quotes. I can't tell you how many times a famous person has had their words twisted and distorted by journalists hungry for a bit of gossip.

Brett Emerton is one of few players who is always willing to 'get his hands-dirty' for the cause of the Socceroos. When you look at the team as the national anthem is playing, who always has his hand on his heart. Yes, you guessed it, Emmo!

I can't think of another player who has such a down to earth attitude and who recognises the importance of each and every fixture.

Walter Graham.
Matraville, NSW.



Lay off Emmo!

JOEYS INJUSTICE

Dear Sir,

It is most disappointing to read of the Joey's poor performances in the recent World Cup in Finland.

The writing was truly on the wall after losing both our warm-up games against modest club sides in Melbourne and then failing to get on top of both Arsenal and Chelsea youth teams in England.

This would now suggest that the quality of youth football in England has outstripped what we are now producing as our best from (primarily) our Academies in Australia.

All credit should go to our young boys for giving their best but their best is not good enough to compete on the international stage and the bottom line is this Joey's team (unlike some earlier versions) clearly lacked the quality and experience necessary to get the job done.

So where lies the problem?

For some years now we have been beating our chests about how advanced and superior our youth development has been compared to other parts of the world and the pathway to National representation is via our Academies.

This may be fine in theory, but in practice this approach is currently seeing us fall well short of the standard required. This has been demonstrated by the decision of the NSW Institute to cease playing in the National Youth League because they can no longer compete at this level. If this is the case how the hell are these boys going to compete in a World Cup?

It seems to me that we need to urgently review our Academy system with a view to get these boys some decent experience either in the National League or via more

international exposure at a younger age. In addition to this we should be paying much more attention to the numerous young guys who are currently playing in Europe and competing at a high level consistently.

This may not sit well with our Academy directors but lets get realistic and if we seriously want to mix it with the big boys we need to get our 'heads out of the sand'.

The warning bells are ringing - we have only three months before the U/20's World Cup begins!

Lets hope we can start to turn it around.

David Campbell
Campsie N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

The English Premier League is shaping up to be an absolute cracker this season!

One only has to look at the very first round to find enough reasons to suggest that it is simply the best league in the world.

The premiership offers the most diverse styles of play of any division anywhere in the world.

At Old Trafford, there is the new Portuguese whiz kid Ronaldo threatening to tear up any brittle defence with his lightning quick speed and evasive dribbling.

He finds himself in a team that prides itself on a very attacking in your face

British approach, and he should mix things up a bit.

And with Chelsea, you have a very cosmopolitan, sophisticated side which plays with panache and tactical acumen (can anyone think of other big words to describe them??).

While many contest that when it comes to skill and tactics, England is behind Spain and Italy, but the Premier League definitely has these with the addition of goals aplenty.

British managers have learned a great deal more from the variety of players in the country.

Nestor Andrews.
Emu Plains, NSW.



THE BLOCK SAYS...

By Daniel Kuzlow

Football lovers near and far alike have waited with great patience, yet slowly the pre-season slumber of the world game giant is coming to an end and the monster is set to once again wreck havoc on the world.

Particularly for a nation such as ours, this chaos will be in the form of sleep deprivation and enduring games going into the wee hours of the morning. But such a monster can also bring great joy, where the amber liquids will overflow in the many, many bars, where mates will meet to watch the games with the hope of securing bragging rights over the clan for at least a week.

Yes, the opening month of the football season, is a special type of the year and while we ourselves may not have the pleasure of walking in the late European summer to our favourite ground and joining in the inevitable singing we are

linked to such actions by our passion for the sport.

What will become of a new look Liverpool with our very own Harry gracing the hallowed turf of Anfield. Are they able to take that final step from bridesmaid to bride?

Perennial powerhouses, Real Madrid fresh from securing David Beckham will be looking to continue their stranglehold on both the Primera Liga and returning the European Cup to its spiritual home, while European champions AC Milan will be looking to reclaim the Scudetto from old foes Juventus.

Yes, the anticipation of a new soccer season, is unmatched anywhere in the world.

It unites the peoples of the world to engage in the most global of cultural phenomena and keeps them coming back for more and I think without it, we just would not be the same.

I say bring on August!

NEW HORIZONS AHEAD

Dear Sir,

Despite the elimination of the Joeys from the world championships, this week has certainly been a good one for Australian soccer.

The Socceroos played very well against the Republic of Ireland and they are improving with every match.

I also read that soccer is becoming the most popular sport in the country. It certainly has the most appeal of all the football codes. League, union and aussie rules are all isolated within certain states, whereas soccer has the potential, if properly managed, to blow the others away in terms of participation and attendances.

Frank Lowy will bring his big business knowledge to the fold, and if the NSL can attract some overseas based players back home, the competition will once again be something we can be proud of.

Julia Reynolds.
Adelaide, SA.

BILL TURNER CUP and BILL TURNER TROPHY

(Boys)

Quarter Finals

Round 6: Narrabeen Sports 2 Christ Catholic College 1, Westfields Sports 4 Kingsgrove 0, Kotara 1 Oxley 0, St Edwards Gosford 2 Copacord 0, James Sheahan, Orange 1 Narooma 0, Griffith Catholic 2 Edmund Rice College 0, Cairns 1 John Paul College 0, Kelvin Grove 2 Brisbane Grammar 1.

Areas Finals (Girls)

Cavendish Road 2 Redbank Plains 1.

Round 6: Emmans Catholic 2 Davidson 1, Endeavour Sports 9 Bossley Park 0, Northlakes 5 Domremy College 1, Kylluri Kurri 1 West Wallsend 0, Cavendish Road 1 Trinity Lismore 0, Duval 2 Bellingen 0, Orange 1-3 Wade 1-2, Vincentia 3 Bega 0.

Quarter Finals (Boys)

Kelvin Grove College 2 Cairns 1, St Edwards Gosford 2 Kotara 0, Westfields Sports 6 Narrabeen Sports 1, Griffith Catholic 3 James Sheahan 1.

Quarter Finals (Girls)

Cavendish Road 3 Duval 2, Kurri Kurri 2 Northlakes 1, Emmanus College 1 Endeavour Sports 0, Vincentia 2 Orange 1.

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRO

Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarro. Each week we give you the no-nonsense news and our views from around the grounds of the English Premier League.

We love the start of the season. Every year there is one team that has no business being at the top of the EPL. There is always one 'also-ran' that shoots out the blocks like a juiced up Ben Johnson. Anyone remember Ipswich Town? We don't. This year it is the turn of Blackburn Rovers. If the Blackburn v Wolves fixture had been noticed by us pundits, we would have more than likely picked a good shel-lacking for The Boys from the Black Stuff. The only question that remains is, whether Wolves will prove to be even worse than Blunderland and Camp Wilko.

However, all is not Black in the Black Country. Stefan Iversen, formerly of Tottenham Hotspurs, gave the proverbial two finger salute to his former club by scoring Wolves' only goal, which is more than can be said for the 7 mil investment Spurs made on an unknown from Lisbon.

Without a doubt, Helder Postiga was devastating in the pre-season when he banged in plenty of goals against 3rd Division and non-league outfits. He was a big fish in a small, muddy, rancid puddle,

and now he is finding out that the EPL is the Atlantic Ocean and he is the size of a tadpole.

New 4 million signing, Freddy "Kruger" Kanoute, has got his new career off to a belter by doing a hammy whilst getting off the team bus at the training ground. Looks like he'll be out for four weeks. All Spurs need to do now is sign Robbing Fowler and they will have the worst strike force in the Premier League. Talking of Robbing Fowler, he is doing his utmost to make Nicola Anelka look-the world beating centre forehead, he isn't. Fowler looks like having as much chance of scoring a goal as we've got scoring Kylie. We predict that Fowler will be signing on a free transfer for Rushden & Diamonds before the close of the transfer window, and he still won't net a double-digit goal tally.

Other new EPL outfits faired a lot better. Pompey brought the house down by accounting for a very poor Villa side, managed by a very poor management team. The highlight for Villa being the articulate way Garry Barry abused the linesman only to get his marching orders. Deadly Doug nearly had a coronary when Leary David said that he would regard the season as a success if they finished above the 16th spot they languished in during last season. Doug wants silverware. Sensible money

says that Villa will be playing in the Intertotempole Cup next year.

Liechester City astounded everyone, including manager Mickey Adams, by going two up in ten minutes against a Saints side from St Mary's that had a new striker, Supa Kev, on the bench. When

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarro

Supa Kev came on, he smashed in a 35 yarder and was instrumental in setting up new chum, Jimbo Beattie. As we predicted, this tandem looks tasty and Liechester were lucky. We think that Wolves and Liechester will be competing to relieve Blunderland of the 'worst team' tag.

In some last minute Transfer Bollocks, Charlton have made a good loan signing (of course) in the shape of training ground

bruiser, Carlton "Right Hook" Cole. If new nutter Paula Di Canio can keep his head on, this could also be an interesting strike force. Boro have pulled a "Homer" by lassoing, Spanish International left midfielder, Gaizka Mendietta...on loan. Leeds' hard man right back, Danny Mills, is being tracked by Birmingham and Man City after serving up a salvo to Monkey Heed Reid for being left out of the side that rattled the Toon. A 2 mil bid will more than likely secure his services. This will take a bit of pressure off the Leeds over-draft. They will only be 78 mil in the red.

What would Transfer Bollocks be without Chelski? The Red Oil Baron has just thrown a 25 mil wad on the table for Inter Milanians, Argie centre forehead, Herman Crispy.

This looks like it will be accepted as Inter aren't exactly flush with cash. One person who has said niet to the Ruski is Juve's furniture faced midfielder, David Edgars. He has stated that he is not up for some cash, as he has plenty. There are some potential storm clouds forming for Chelski as Roman Roubles is looking to buy the Minardi F1 team. Red's loot has got to run out at some stage and the talent around a Formula 1 pit is a lot better than any talent around Chelski's pit.

To finish off we have some Good, Bad

and Fugly. Romanian footballers have some weird superstitions. Remember the 1998 World Cup when the squad all dyed their hair red? Well the latest black cat came in the form of female sports writer Gabriela Arsenie. Gab was due to fly, with the team, to Romania's friendly with Ukraine. However, superstition got the better of the Romanian FA and they banned her from the flight as they consider that females travelling with the team are bad luck. Even though the Romanians denied that Gabby was ejected because of the superstition, they did admit it did exist. Is this a form of sexual discrimination?

Even if it is, it can be lost in the raft of superstitions that the Romanian team has. Here are a few; players must step onto the pitch with their right foot, players must stuff grass from the pitch into their breast pocket, the team bus cannot reverse while players are aboard and Basil should be inserted into players' boots on the night before matches. What else can we say?

There endith another week of Bizarro in the Premiership. Don't forget to tune your computer to www.bananatv.com for all the latest bollocks.

See you next week!

Nige & Derek
Premiership Bizarro

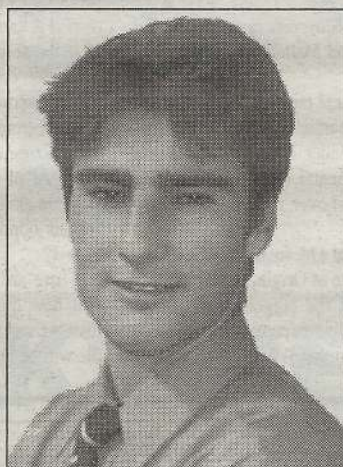
AUSTIN POWERS AT WOLVES

Wollongong Wolves coach John Turner has told Liam Austin he will be played as a striker this season.

The former AIS graduate was used at wing-back by previous coach Ron Corry, but Austin admits he prefers to be playing upfront. The young forward agreed terms last week and joins Stuart Young, John Majurovski and Chimaobi Nwaogazi as Wolves' strikers for the new campaign.

"It is good because that I can play both positions, but I enjoy striker a lot more," Austin told the Illawara Mercury. Turner added, "We have four (strikers) there now and they are all a little bit different in how they play."

Austin took part in this season's



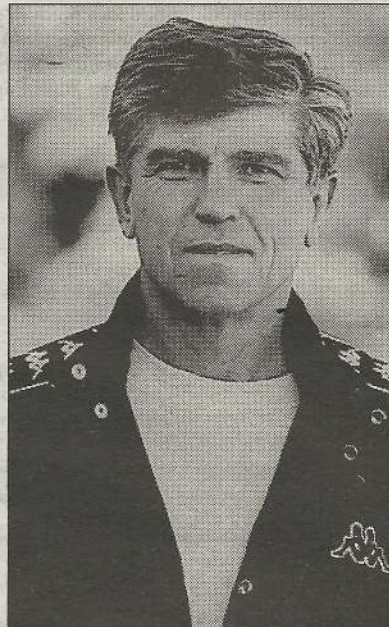
Liam Austin is buzzing on his new striking role at the Wolves.

NSW Winter Super League with club Fraser Park and racked up 11 goals as a striker under coach Ian Gillian who regards him as one of the best prospects from his squad and believes the 22-year-old can go further in his soccer career.

Injuries have plagued the new-found striker in his first two seasons at the club but the Macquarie University student believes that this year the players will be fitter than ever.

"Our pre-season training really came through for us with both fitness and speed".

The Wolves managed to record a brilliant four-nil victory over the Northern Spirit a few weeks in which Austin scored a brace keeping his new goal-scoring record in-tact.



Zoran Matic: Will coach the Force this season.

MATIC TO COACH FORCE

Zoran Matic has confirmed he will coach Adelaide City this season. Matic was reluctant to accept president Bob D'Ottavi's offer, but admitted to *The Advertiser*:

"They need some idiot there and it just happens to be me.

"I wasn't counting on this (coaching again) and as I've said before if the club finds a long term replacement I will be happy to step aside."

He added, "We have lost a few people but the group is still quite strong and really how well we do is up to the players because they are the most important component of any club.

"Young players like Scott Tunbridge, Iain Fyfe and Nick Budin have had a few years experience and it's time for them to step up and become leaders because Carl Veart and Aurelio Vidmar won't be around forever."

SOCCERWOMAN

GOLEBIOWSKI WAVES AUSSIE FLAG IN WUSA FINAL

Qantas Matildas and Washington Freedom attacker Kelly Golebiowski flew the Australian flag in last Sunday's final of the WUSA, the world's premier women's professional league, when Washington took on Atlanta Beat in San Diego.

Golebiowski is in her first season in the pro-league, and has played in all of the season's 18 matches for which she has not been away on Australian Team duty, with a starting eleven berth for 12 of these, and scoring two goals.

Golebiowski is one of four Australians - Cheryl Salisbury, Joanne Peters, and Alagich are the others - who played in the league this season.

The quartet are the core of the Qantas Matildas team about to embark on their final preparations

enroute to the US for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The Australian Team departed for China last Sunday for two internationals against the world number four nation, before travelling to England, Scotland, and Canada for three more internationals.

Golebiowski will join her Qantas Matildas teammates following her WUSA final commitments.

The Australians arrive in Los Angeles six days before their opening World Cup match against Russia on 21 September.

The Qantas Matildas then continue their Group D matches against China on Thursday 25 September in Los Angeles, then Ghana on Sunday 28 September in Portland.

The FIFA Women's World Cup is the flagship event of women's football and contested by sixteen nations.

Qantas Matildas Schedule - Pre-World Cup Tour:

Sun 24 August - Travel to China
Thu 28 August - AUSTRALIA v CHINA, in Jinan
Sun 31 August - AUSTRALIA v CHINA, in Qingdao
Tue 2 September - Travel to England
Thu 4 September - AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND, in Burnley
Fri 5 September - Travel to Scotland
Sat 6 September - AUSTRALIA v SCOTLAND, in Livingston
Sun 7 September - Travel to Canada
Sun 14 September - AUSTRALIA v CANADA, in Kingston
Mon 15 September - Travel to Los Angeles, ready for first World Cup match on 21 Sept



Matildas star Kelly Golebiowski.

The FIFA Women's World Cup USA 2003 is scheduled for 20 September to 12 October. The Qantas Matildas open their campaign on Sunday 21 September against Russia in Los Angeles, followed by China on Thursday 25 September in Los Angeles, then Ghana on Sunday 28 September in Portland.



COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

2003 USA Tour for Under 19 Girls - San Diego Surf Cup

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS has organised a tour to USA departing on 19th November 2003 for girls born after 1st August 1984 with a major component being participation in the **San Diego Surf Cup**, rated within the top two tournaments in the USA.

Prior to competing in **San Diego**, the squad will first arrive in San Francisco for lead up matches and tour activities before travelling to Los Angeles for additional matches and attractions, with the final destination of San Diego for play between 28th - 30th November 2003.

For many players this could be the chance of a life time to experience Womens Soccer at a premier youth international level in arguably the World's leading country for Womens Soccer.

There are limited vacancies available, with current confirmed squad members comprising players from the NSW Womens Super League. Suitably talented players who are interested in further details should contact COLLEGE CONNECTIONS on **9618 2299**.

Green & Gold Army Series

Green & Gold Army

http://www.ggarmy.com

S O C C E R N O O S

Events for the Socceroos v Jamaica-just 2 weeks to go

Our mighty Socceroos play the 'Reggae Boyz' of Jamaica very shortly. The performance against the Irish last week was OK but on pseudo home turf in England our boys will be, in racing parlance, 'better for the run'. The Green and Gold Army are looking at staging some events for the big game and will be announcing these plans ASAP, so say tuned. If you have any great ideas for an even in your town or city, don't hesitate to contact us at admin@ggarmy.com no matter where you are.

We will have events in Sydney, Melbourne and Reading (UK) but we need help organising events in other centres such as Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane-or anywhere you can get a group of Socceroo supporters together. You would be surprised how easy it is so e-mail us at admin@ggarmy.com if you can help out

Thanks to all who turned out last week to our events in Melbourne, Sydney and Dublin. Numbers were down at our Aus events due to the time, the weather (Melbourne had the coldest morning of the year, well done you crazy frozen punters) and the match not being live.

Next time will be bigger and better....

Socceroos v Jamaica

Sunday 7th September, kick off 2pm (London time)
11PM AEST Events announced NEXT WEEK

The GGArmy.com Message Board is here!

By popular demand ggarmy.com has launched its Fans Forum which can be accessed by all registered members at the top of the site.

The Green and Gold Army-Australia's national soccer supporters group

Register free today by visting ggarmy.com

God defend New Zealand

By Mark van Aken (Green & Gold Army Spokesman)

When I began to write this piece last month its focus was to highlight that the Socceroos face no real obstacle to Germany 2006. It seems this smart alec attitude, this arrogance shared by many Australians has come back to smack us collectively in the mouth. Putting this aside, we still need to overcome the 'All Whites' to play whoever the wise men at FIFA place in front of us. When FIFA gifted Oceania an automatic seat at the table of world soccer's big feast, most media outlets on the planet pointed to Australia as the number 1 recipient of FIFA's generosity. Britain's soccer bible Four Four Two ran a story sarcastically lauding the positive attributes of the island nations as being a large provider of phosphate, they sent good wishes to the Kiwis as the only thing standing in the way of the Green and Gold waltzing to the Cup. The gaffer himself, Frank Farina, has erred on the side of caution, as have several of his troops including keeper Mark Schwarzer and big man Mark Viduka. We of course have stumbled in our own group twice in the last five years, failing to reach two Confederations

Cups. The least said about our last two Oceania Cup matches against the Kiwis the better; but remember they were playing an NSL packed team which all things being equal would be our fourth or fifth choice team at best. This said, should we really be worried about the 'All Whites' in the lead up to the World Cup qualifiers in just over a years time? Their poor showing at the Confederation Cup points to no. In their three group matches they conceded no less than 11 goals, including 5 against a weakened French team, and 3 in each of the others against Japan and Colombia. Granted these are quality teams they are up against, but most at the Confederations Cup are. It has since been revealed by no less than Sepp Blatter that this record was a contributing 'excuse' behind Oceania losing its spot in Germany if not the 'reason', as those on the former SA board must take some significant blame as well. Getting on the high horse for a moment, may we point out that in their recent meetings with the Socceroos the then World number 1 (they are currently number 2) ranked French were humbled 1-0 at the same competition at which

the New Zealander's recently floundered. The then reigning world and European champions were well held to a 1-1 draw against the Socceroos at the MCG in late 2001. Since then France has failed dismally at the World Cup, becoming the first defending champion to bow out in the first round although recent Euro qualifying form has been excellent having not dropped a point in their five matches thus far. This can be tempered however by the fact that the other teams in their group are Slovenia, ranked 36 along with Israel (44), Cyprus (83) and Malta who are ranked a lowly 130 in the world. When looking ahead to our next meeting, the Socceroos greatest advantage comes in the mind. There are countless examples in sport where the under dog causes an upset because of their unwavering mental belief and desire to win. This has fuelled many a boil over, particularly in trans Tasman sports over the years. It is also what built the great Queensland sides of the early 80's in Rugby League State of Origin, or many South Australian Origin wins against the bigger more fancied Victorians in Aussie Rules Origin competitions. The Kiwis are to Australia, what the kid brother is to the big brother-

a constant source of sporting triumph and a constant thorn in your side. Physcologically the under dog thing can go two ways but it all comes down to belief. NZ coach Mick Watt agreed last year that he had the task in front of him to convince his side that hey could compete with the Aussies. With FIFA's shifting of the goal posts this hasn't changed. If the NZ attitude is that they don't deserve to be treated seriously by the world's top teams, then there is little wonder FIFA came to the conclusion that they did. If the second biggest and powerful country in the confederation compares itself to an amateur organisation like the Singapore Rugby Union, then underneath all the hurt and resentment that the FIFA reversal has left us, we can begin to see that just maybe this might well have been 'for the good of the game' after all. Remember we aren't in Oceania alone, and to give a confederation where the only serious opposition isn't up to the task then what do we expect? There are many scenarios in relation to how Oceania will now qualify for Germany after FIFA's decision. At least we can sleep easy in the knowledge that the first hurdle will be an easy one.

News From The National Capital

By Graham Cooke

The NSW Premier League has been good for Danny Macor - and Belconnen Blue Devils' all time highest scorer is determined to give it another go in 2003-04. "If I am in [new coach] Chris Tanzey's plans, then I will be there," he said. "Before the Blue Devils gave me a chance I was going stale in the local competition and getting a reputation as a big mouth - which I probably deserved. "I'd had too many years playing the same teams, seeing the same old faces. I was going nowhere." That changed when coach Lino Fiorese brought him into the side two seasons ago as a striking partner for Steve Lazzari, but the season was just half over before Lazzari was gone and Macor was left to shoulder the scoring-burden, which he did admirably finishing with 18 goals. Last season, despite being a marked man, he still found the back of the net 15 times, yet amazingly he does not see goal scoring as even the most important part of his game. "There are other sides, such as work rate," he said. "It's all to do with a change of attitude. Lino was a fitness fanatic and he turned my game around." He admits that he and Tanzey know very little about each other. "But there are times in a club's history when changes are both nec-

essary and good," he said. "There will be new ideas and that's exciting, because I believe we will have the team that is capable of going better than last season. "If we can get high enough to have a home semi-final, then I think we would be very hard to beat at McKellar." For the moment he is content to play the winter out with his brothers and some friends in the ACT third division, but an incident in mid-season showed he has lost none of his edge. "Ian Heywood was short of players for Juventus in the Premiership, so I agreed to play a couple of games for him and scored five goals," he said. "But now I'm back in the third. "You can have too much serious football and I want to be ready when the Blue Devils begin training again in mid-September." The years have passed since teenage goal-keeper Jovan Naumovski made an unexpected and nervous debut for Canberra Deakin in the NSW Superleague, brought on for the last 15 minutes of a game after an injury to first-choice goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca. "We also had Paul Jones who was already injured, and with two goalkeepers of that calibre, the last thing you expect is you'll be getting a game," he said. Now 30, Naumovski later spent several

years with Queanbeyan City, then back to Deakin for a season, followed by a spell overseas before accepting an offer to play for newly promoted Cooma in the ACT Premiership at the beginning of the 2003 season. "It's a lot of traveling but I thought 'why not?'" he said recently. "There's a few of us who do it, and we have an arrangement whereby we train by ourselves in Canberra on the Tuesday and travel to Cooma for the Thursday session. "I don't regret it, there's a really social atmosphere here and we have all been looked after." Speaking shortly after the 4-1 loss to runaway Premiership leaders Deakin, he agreed the match was shaping up as a nightmare after he conceded three goals in the first 17 minutes. However, he recovered his confidence and made several brave second-half saves to deny Deakin a further strike until the closing minutes. "There's still an outside chance we can make the four, but it's down to what Tuggeranong does, and we'll have to beat Gungahlin Juventus in Canberra in the last game of the season," he said. "But however it ends up, Cooma has not done so badly for a team back in the top league for the first time in almost 30 years."

ACT WRAP

by Graham Cooke

The rain that swept across Canberra for much of the weekend, wiped out two of the five games in the ACT Premiership and put Canberra Deakin's championship celebrations on hold for a few more days. Needing two points to be certain of a 10th title, Deakin were hoping to secure them in style against second-placed Canberra Olympic, but the game was called off in controversial circumstances. Referees earlier in the day had ruled the Deakin Oval pitch playable for both the main game and the curtain-raising reserve game, but with the rain continuing to pour down and the surface cutting up, it became clear that by half time in the first match that a second game was out of the question. Now Deakin officials are questioning why the curtain raiser was allowed to go ahead if the pitch was good enough only for a single game. Gungahlin Juventus, who can still catch Olympic in second place, had their match with Capital City Suns postponed an hour before the kick off, but the good news for summer soccer in Canberra was that the home of the Belconnen Blue Devils at McKellar Oval survived its first severe wet weather test with flying colours. While players and officials alike complained of the howling gale and freezing tem-

peratures, Belconnen United coach Steve Forshaw said the surface had survived three games on it during the day with scarcely a scar. "The drainage is working like a charm," he said. So were Belconnen United, who chalked up their fourth win since Forshaw took over in mid-season by beating ANU 3-0. Clinton Larfield, a player expected to figure prominently in the Blue Devils' squad during the summer, collected a hat trick. Two matches-played on Saturday escaped the worst of the weather. Tuggeranong United reduced Cooma's chances of overtaking them in fourth sport to a mathematical possibility with a 3-2 win over Canberra City.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	15	13	2	0	48	8	41
Canberra Oly	15	10	3	2	46	18	33
Gungahlin Juv	15	9	4	2	52	26	31
Tuggeranong Utd	16	8	3	5	30	24	27
Cooma	16	5	6	5	31	29	21
Belconnen Utd	16	5	3	8	26	39	18
Canberra City	16	3	7	6	26	29	16
Capital City Suns	15	5	1	9	20	39	16
ANU	16	3	1	12	22	48	10
Uni of Canberra	16	0	4	12	10	49	4

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR SPIRIT

Northern Spirit's preparations for the 2003/04 National Soccer League season continues in Queensland with the Sydney-based club flying north for friendly matches in Mackay and Townsville.

Despite suffering a 4-0 loss to Wollongong Wolves in a pre-season friendly at Christie Park, Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna is happy with his side's dedication.

"Our preparation so far has been excellent," he revealed.

"As we only had around eight weeks

off, the team maintained their fitness and have quickly settled back into training. The effort and commitment by the team has been fantastic."

The Spirit's pre-season has been hampered by injuries but McKinna is confident that a full complement of players will be available for the club's NSL opener against the Brisbane Strikers on September 21.

"We have some small injury concerns that will prevent players from touring with us but they'll be fine by season kick off," McKinna declared.



John Hutchinson is one of three Spirit players that have just returned from overseas trials.

"For our upcoming tours John Hutchinson, Vuko Tomasevic and Dylan Macallister have all trained hard since returning from overseas and will travel with the team."

Following the two games in Northern Queensland, the Spirit will host Chinese outfit Shenzhen Jianlibao on August 27 and Newcastle United on August 30 at its new ground, Pittwater Park in Warriewood.

In September, the Spirit will wrap up its pre-season commitments with a three-match tour of China.

Kingz in trouble over bills

The parties in dispute over unpaid bills from Football Kingz soccer matches at Ericsson Stadium are due to meet again in the hope of halting legal action.

Kingz director Chris Turner admits the National Soccer League club owes Auckland Regional Council money, saying the matter relates to a double-header with the New Zealand Warriors in March.

However, Ericsson Stadium director Jaime Lovell-Gadd said the \$60,000 being claimed covered eight Kingz matches dating back to October.

She said legal proceedings had begun, with the club initially being given 15 days to make payment.

"We are about a week through that period," she said.

"I would like to think we could sit around the table and work out the best way to fix this. The legal channels are the last call."

Lovell-Gadd said there had been "lots and lots of dialogue" since the first non-payment of invoices, but without success.

However, she said the dispute did not mean the Kingz would be unwelcome next season.

"We will always make the stadium available for them," she said.

"We may need to be a bit smarter about when we get our money."



She expressed surprise that one of the issues Turner had raised related to the Kingz playing at the ground during the proposed rebuilding of a new grandstand.

"I first I heard about that was yesterday," she said.

"In their last game, they had about 1000 people, so there's plenty of room for the fans."

She said the Warriors, who attracted far bigger crowds at their National Rugby League matches and would therefore be more affected, had been working closely with the ARC over the redevelopment.

Turner said that the stadium revamp was one issue, the other was "contractual".

"We owe some money, no question about that, but that won't be settled until we have resolved the contractual issue," he said.

"It goes back to the double-header we had to play with the Warriors for our last home game of the season. We weren't happy about that and neither were the Warriors."

Turner believed the Kingz had the right to play on the scheduled date, but found out that Australian network Channel 9 dictated the timing of league fixtures.

Youth the Key at Knights

Former Australian junior international Lorenz Kindtner has not been offered a contract by the Melbourne Knights as the club looks to develop its youth players.

The 32-year-old returned to Melbourne following a 12-year career in Belgium, and despite showing glimpses of his talent - which won him his only Socceroos cap in 1996 - his experience worked against him.

"We've decided against going with Lorenz," new Knights coach Dobson told The Australian. "There is no doubt he can still play NSL, but the club has made the decision to work with youth."

Kindtner, who played for Club Brugge, Harelbeke, St Truiden, Oostende, Cercle Brugge and Roeselare in Belgium, has not played for a number of months and his lack of fitness also contributed to Dobson looking elsewhere.

The news was better for former Canberra Cosmos and South Melbourne striker Peter Buljan, and youngsters Tom Razov, Steve Pantelidis and Stan Zilic.

Buljan and St Albans 18-year-old Razov have already agreed terms with the club, while Dobson has asked his board to sign Pantelidis, 19, and Zilic, 21, after the duo trialed impressively.

They are expected to join the youthful Knights squad for the NSL 2003/04 season.

"Beyond Andrew Marth and Andy Vargas, who is 27, we're going to have one 25-year-old and the rest of the squad will be 22 or under," Dobson said.

"I know all about the expectations (of the fans). But we have to be patient. We're developing youth and bringing the young ones through."

One player that failed to get a contract at the Knights this season was Croatian import Leon Buhic.

A number of clubs have been alerted to the strikers availability but at this stage



Ian Dobson: Knights coach will be banking on youth this NSL season.

nothing has been stated.

The Knights received great news after star midfielder Anthony Pelikan re-signed with the side after his \$360,000 transfer to Croatian side Dinamo Zagreb fell through.

Coach Dobson has hit fine form of late after guiding his Victorian Premier League side the Green Gully Cavaliers to this year's final played against the Frankston Pines last week.

One player to look out for will be current Joeys international Serkan Oksuz who has been noted as a star in the making.

The young 16-year-old could make a number of appearances for the Knights this season under Dobson who is no stranger to giving youth a go.

Australian officials appointed to Women's World Cup

Three leading Australian match officials have been appointed for next month's FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in the USA.

Referee Tammy Ogston of Brisbane, plus assistant referee's Airlie Keen of Adelaide and Rockhampton based Jacqueline Leleu have earned the call up to officiate at FIFA's premier female competition.

This tournament will be the second World Cup for Ogston who was also appointed to the first ever Women's World Cup, held in the USA in 1999.

Ogston followed that with selection at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney and earlier this year controlled her first ever men's

international during the South Pacific Games in Fiji. 33-year-old Ogston, who has been an international referee for 8 years, has also been refereeing regularly in the Brisbane based men's competition for a number of seasons.

Both assistant referees also have several years international experience and have both just returned from a three-nation tournament in Japan, in addition to officiating at the Oceania qualifying tournament held earlier this year in Canberra. For Keen it will be her second FIFA tournament appearance after officiating at last year's FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship in Canada. Keen also recently officiated at the recent Festival Cup, an international

U20 men's tournament in Adelaide, whilst Leleu has refereed the last four senior men's Grand Finals in Central Queensland.

A National Director of Referees, Barry Such, says that the selection further strengthened the fact that

there is a definite career path for women referees in Australia.

"Referee development in Australia is very strong in what is a growth area of the sport and I am sure the girls will do well," he said.



CROW - EATERS READY FOR QLD CHALLENGE

The State Coach has called up the following players for the State match against Queensland in October.

State coach Bugsy Nyskohus has named a squad of 17 players all of whom, except Michael Brooks and Adam Carter, are playing in the Fairmont Bianco Top 5 Soccer Series kicking off this weekend.

Richard Low has been included in the squad after a great performance for the State League Select team.

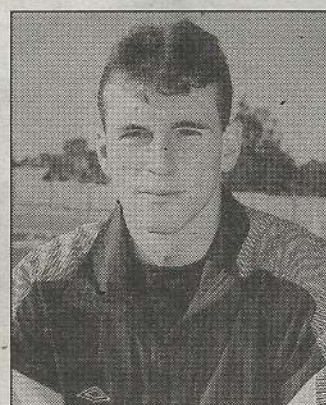
Also from the State League is the Pirates Richie Alagich, his NSL experience will be a valuable asset said the coach.

The squad is:
Corey Artone MetroStars
Richie Alagich Pirates
Justin Bralic Raiders



Michael Brooks Para Hills Knights
Adam Carter Modbury
Michael Cartwright Adel Galaxy
Richard Low Cumberland United
Robert Matosevic Raiders
David Menecella MetroStars
Daniel Menecella Raiders
Bill Misailidis MetroStars
Ryan Moore MetroStars
Michael Pirone Adelaide BE
Leno Sattin Adelaide BE
Frank Sergi MetroStars
Jason Trimboli Raiders
Mark Yates Raiders

The State Team began training last Wednesday at Enfield City's ground, Rushworth Reserve.



Michael Brooks: One of South Australia's most exciting players.

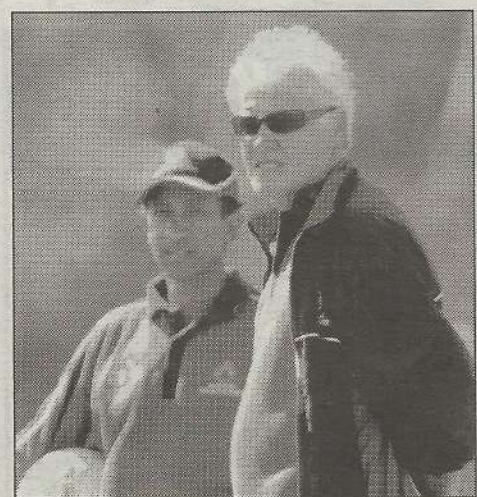
AIS SPLIT BY HAJDUK IN FESTIVAL CUP

Croatian giants Hajduk Split last week were crowned Festival Cup champions after defeating the Australian Institute of Sport 3-1 at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium.

Split looked the likely favourites to take out the tournament after an impressive run towards the final with some outstanding group round results.

Smashing a Malaysian select side five-nil and Cosco with the same margin, while beating Liverpool two-nil and finally getting a brilliant six-two win over German giants Bayer Leverkusen in the semi-final, the AIS knew that this would be their toughest test in the competition.

Hajduk got off to the best start in the fifth minute



The coaching staff of the AIS shown – Assistant Coach Ray Junna (Left) and Head-Coach Steve O'Connor (Right).

Luka Vucko notched up a brilliant header to give the Croatian side the lead.

The AIS had a number of good chances to equalise in the first half but Split held out the Aussies with some brilliant defence.

Tragedy struck the AIS when their man of the tournament and current Newcastle United star Jobe Wheelhouse collided head-on with Hajduk keeper Andrija Vukovic.

Wheelhouse was clutching his left knee and was stretched off after the unfortunate incident.

Reports this week however have stated that Jobe suffered a jarred injury and will be back for Ian Crook's Newcastle side very soon.

The Split attack at numerous times were simply irresistible and sealed their Festival Cup victory with goals from Bartulovic and Ivan Grivicic.

Steve O'Connor's side added a consolation goal through stoppage time when midfielder Stuart Musialik scored a goal thanks to great lead-up work from giant striker Mark Nedeljkovic.

O'Connor stated that Split were a very organised side but knew that extreme pressure from their opponents was the one of the reason's for the side's loss.

"Today things happened a little too quick for a few of the boys but that's what you get at international level", O'Connor stated to 'The Advertiser'.

German side Bayer Leverkusen took out third position after defeating English Giants Liverpool in the dreaded penalty shootouts five-three.

A great crowd of 5821 came through to witness this fantastic youth spectacle that show-cased a number of good up and coming youth talent from across the globe.

Bigger and better things are expected to happen in next season's Festival Cup.



The AIS started that entered the Festival Cup in Adelaide.

Hajduk Split v Malaysian Select	5 - 0		
Liverpool v Cosco	3 - 1		
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v AIS (6)	0 - 0 (7)	Semi-Finals	
Chievo Verona v Panathinaikos	0 - 1	Liverpool v AIS	1 - 2
Hajduk Split v Cosco	5 - 0	Hajduk Split v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	6 - 2
Liverpool v Malaysian Select	6 - 0		
Panathinaikos v AIS	1 - 2	3-4 Playoff	
Chievo Verona v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	1 - 4	Bayer Leverkusen 2 - Liverpool 2 (5-3)	
Malaysian Select v Cosco	0 - 2		
Liverpool v Hajduk Split	0 - 2	Grand-Final	
Panathinaikos v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	0 - 3	Hajduk Split 3 - AIS 1	
Chievo Verona v AIS	0 - 4		

SALAPASIDIS OUT WITH BROKEN FOOT

Parramatta Power striker Kosta Salapasis will miss the start of the 2003/04 National Soccer League season after breaking his foot at training.

The injury happened during Parramatta Power's pre-season training camp on the Gold Coast last week.

Salapasis collided with Power goalkeeper Daniel

Vukovic during a routine training exercise and will miss 6-10 weeks after X-Rays showed his foot to be broken in two places.

The injury rules him out of the season opener against South Melbourne at Parramatta Stadium on September 20.

"It's not good for Kosta," said Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos. "He was

looking good and then collided with Vuka (Vukovic) at training and he has a broken foot so he'll miss the start of the season.

"It is always disappointing to lose a quality player and we will miss Kosta's creativity in attack and obviously his ability to score goals."

While the injury is a dent in Power's strikeforce, there is ample cover for the loss of

Salapasis with last year's leading goalscorer Johnny Buonavoglia and new signing Ante Milicic ready to lead the Power attack.

Throw in Olyroo midfield representative Ahmad Elrich as an alternative and the attacking prowess of former

NSL Player of the Year Fernando Rech and Theodorakopoulos has plenty of options.

"It's never nice to see someone get injured but we have plenty of options in attack," Theodorakopoulos said. "Johnny B

(Buonavoglia), Ante, Ahmad and Fernando are all more than capable of leading us up front.

"We are blessed with some great players and although we have a much smaller squad this year we have more quality to be able to handle injuries like this."



Kosta Salapasis will miss the start of the NSL season due to a broken foot sustained at the clubs recent pre-season sessions at the Gold Coast.

Glory looking at English defender

PERTH Glory will examine the qualities of former English league defender Mark Williams during the next two weeks as it prepares for life without promising youngster David Tarka.

Although Tarka's proposed transfer to English first division club Nottingham Forest

is yet to be finalised, coach Mich d'Avray is already looking for a replacement centre back.

Tarka accepted personal terms with Forest almost two weeks ago but the deal has been delayed as the clubs finalise the conditions of the transfer.

"It's looking increasingly likely the Tarka deal will happen," d'Avray said yesterday. "I have to go on the assumption he won't be playing for us this season."

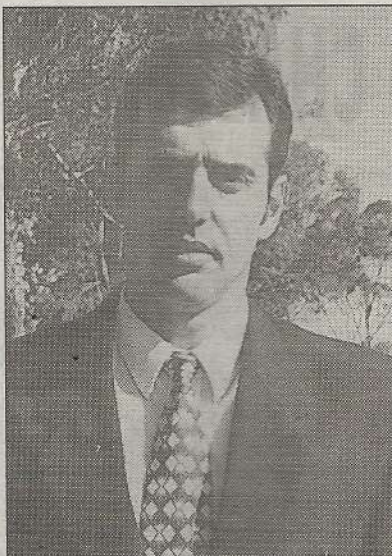
Williams comes with the recommendation of former Perth-based coach Mick Lyons.

The 24-year-old has played around 70 games in the football league, mostly for first division Rotherham United. He had a loan spell with Rochdale and played in the youth and reserve teams of Everton and Tranmere Rovers.

Most recently Williams played under Lyons for the Brunei national team in the Malaysian league. He had long been considering a move to Australia.

He said he was ready for a new experience and felt he had a lot to offer the NSL champion.

He is expected to be given an opportunity against the Singapore national team on August 28 at Waroona (12 noon) and August 30 at Mandurah (3pm).



Mich d'Avray: Glory coach looking to strengthen his defence with Englishman Mark Williams.

2003 Premier League Gold Medal



Chris Emovski picked up this season's Victorian Premier League player of the year while Essendon's powerful defender Serdar Pir picked up third position.

The Gold Medal for the Best and Fairest player of the 2003 Crazy John's Premier League was presented to Preston Lions player Chris Emovski at Crown Casino's, Palladium. Chris Emovski finished on 33 votes, 2 ahead of Altona Magic's Doug Mladenovic.

In dramatic circumstances, it came down to the last game of the year to find out the winner. The round 22 game was played between Chris Emovski's Preston Lions and Doug Mladenovic's Altona Magic.

Chris was ahead by 3 votes going into the final round. Doug Mladenovic gained 1 vote in the clash to be defeated by 2 votes.

These two players were the run away vote getters for the

2003 season, finishing at least 10 votes ahead of 3rd place.

Winner Chris Emovski 33 votes Preston Lions
2nd - Doug Mladenovic 31 votes Altona Magic
3rd Serdar Pir 21 votes Essendon Royals

It was the first time that the Veddici Women's Premier League featured at the Gold Medal night. The Gold Medal winner for the WPL was Louisa Bisby.

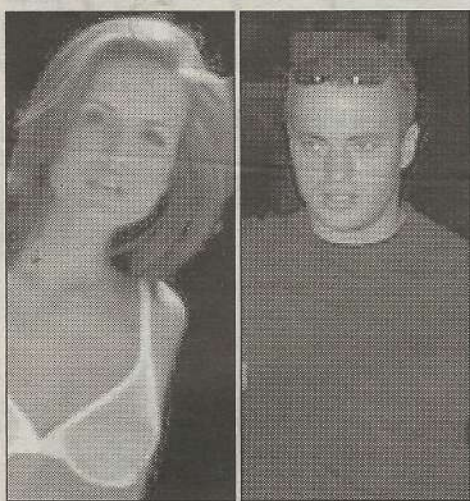
Other award winners were:

MEN	
Referee of the Year	Senko Rastocic
Referee Development Award	John Natsioulas
Bill Fleming Award	Tony Schipano - Fawkner Blues (media player of the year)
Weinstein Medal	Kristian Sarkies (best talent in Victoria U16)
Under 21 Player of the Year	Simon Storey Green Gully
Top Goalscorer	Joe Tricarico (16 Goals) Whittlesea Stallions
Goalkeeper of the Year	Stuart Webster Frankston Pines
Coach of the Year	Stan Webster - Frankston Pines

WOMEN	
Hoar/Melvin Award	Amy Jackson (Most valuable youth state team member)
Jones/ Martin Award	Sarah Groenewald (Most valuable Junior state team member)
Goal Keeper of the Year	Melissa Barbieri
Top Goalscorer	Louisa Bisby

Ray Baartz, one of Australia's most talented soccer players was the guest speaker on the night. Ray Baartz talked about his time at Manchester United and his experiences with the Socceroos.

Bozza was 'coke addict'



Sophie Anderton (Left) shared cocaine with boyfriend and former Soccerroo star Mark Bosnich (Right)

MARK BOSNICH has dramatically admitted to a \$5000-a-week cocaine habit — but says he only took the recreational drug after he was banned from international soccer.

Bosnich has a little over a month to go on his nine-

month ban for testing positive to cocaine in a random test late last year and has been training with Premiership newcomers Portsmouth.

He told the News of the World newspaper he had been clean of the drug for a fortnight after a confrontation with his father, who flew over from Australia to visit him.

"This is my confession," Bosnich said.

"Until a couple of weeks ago I was addicted to cocaine.

"My life was ruled by drugs and I was a mess. I was staying awake on coke for days on end. It was destroying me."

However, the former Soccerroo goalkeeper stood by his claim that he had not taken the drug knowingly before the random drugs test, which led to Chelsea sacking him from his £163,420 (\$102,900)-a-week contract and the Football Association ban.

He insisted his drink had been spiked in a nightclub the night before a game.

"I know people won't believe me but I want to come clean," he said.

"I wasn't taking any drugs when I was found guilty by the FA. In 15 years of football I never touched them.

"But everybody believed that I was into drugs, especially because of my relationship with Sophie

(Anderton, his girlfriend). So one day I thought, f--- it, I'm going to do it.

"I went to a club, bought a £50 wrap of coke, and brought it home to try. Basically, I cracked.

"I was angry and bitter and I succumbed to what everyone said I was, a coke fiend."

Bosnich said he then used the drug to try to frighten Anderton, a model with a history of drug and alcohol abuse, into going clean.

"I told her that for every line of cocaine she would take, I would take two. And that's exactly what I did," he said.

"I knew it would hurt her and, to be honest, I felt invincible.

"But I reached a stage where I was taking six grams of cocaine a day.

"I was staying awake on coke for days on end, just constantly playing computer games and watching TV. Once I was up for four nights in a row."

Bosnich said he was shocked into action a fortnight ago when he almost shot his father Mark, mistaking him for a burglar.

"I was high on coke and I had my airgun in my hands," he said.

"I'd been up for three or four days and was playing around in the house.

"I heard a noise downstairs and I thought it was a

burglar, so I raced down with my pistol.

"As he came around the corner I grabbed him and put the gun to his head. I was so high I didn't know what I was doing.

"My father was shocked ... he said he wouldn't leave until I had kicked drugs. It was that moment that I realised I couldn't do this to my family and the people I loved. I had to take control of my drug problem."

Bosnich did not say if he plans to drop his appeal against his FA ban.

But he said he wants to rebuild his career at Portsmouth.

"I've been training with them and I've been told I have to prove my commitment and that I'm clean. Hopefully I can resurrect my career," he said.

"All I want to do is get back down to business, which for me is playing football. And I want to apologise to all the loved ones I've hurt, the people I've let down.

"The look in my father's eyes when I confessed to him was enough to make me want to give up cocaine.

"He was so disappointed in me. I have made a promise to everyone, including myself, that if I ever turn to drugs again I will immediately check myself into a rehab clinic."

"But I believe I'm strong enough to turn my back on drugs for good.

Farina's fears over World Cup path



Frank Farina believes the retched South American trek will be the likely scenario for the Roos chances of qualifying for the World Cup in 2006.

Soccerroos coach Frank Farina is resigned to facing another cut-throat World Cup qualifying path through South America.

Farina stated last week that nothing will ever really

prepare the Soccerroos for the pressure-cooker atmosphere of do-or-die qualifiers in South America.

After world governing body FIFA took away Oceania's full berth for Germany 2006, the region is

back in limbo with half a place and uncertain of its qualifying path.

Farina fears the hoped-for outcome of a final qualifying tournament with the other regions with half a berth — Asia, Central and North America (CONCACAF) and South America (CONMEBOL) — is unlikely to come off.

"The Asians and CONCACAF have already planned their playoff dates so unless FIFA change that, the likelihood would be that we go against the South Americans again," said Farina.

The Soccerroos beat England 3-1 in February, they are scheduled to meet Jamaica in September and are hoping for more matches against quality opposition to prepare for whatever route

World Cup qualifying takes them on.

"We can play as many lead up games as we like but you can never duplicate playing a qualifying game in South America," Farina said.

"When you take all the other factors involved — look at Uruguay in 2001, they hadn't qualified in 12 years, they're 1-0 down to, of all teams, Australia, and they're coming home — you can't duplicate that atmosphere and tension.

"The lead up games are important in terms of getting our team structure going the way we would like to play.

"But what we can't do is put the players in situations where they'll be facing the same pressure and intensity of going to South America.

"We've been to South America in '93 against

Argentina and last time against Uruguay and it's very difficult.

"Lead up games are important but nothing replaces playing qualifiers where it's do or die and you've got to get a result."

As Oceania champion, Australia fell at the last World Cup qualifying hurdle against Uruguay in 2001 and suffered the same fate against Iran in 1997 and again in South America against Argentina in 1993.

Farina is hoping FIFA will determine Oceania's qualifying schedule for the 2006 tournament at its executive meeting in October.

He admitted being frustrated by the uncertainty which made it difficult to arrange a schedule.

"The decision to take the spot away from Oceania affected us in a big way, it's affected the whole campaign and we're in the process of rebuilding that.

"That's our lot, unfortu-

nately, Oceania, we cop a lot of decisions which force us to change our planning."

Australia will play Jamaica on September 7 in Reading just outside London in its first "home" game outside Australia.

Soccer Australia is hoping to establish Reading's Madejski Stadium as a "home" ground for its entirely Europe-based Soccerroo squad.

Angry Emerton 'misquoted'



Brett Emerton will pull on the green and gold of Australia anytime amidst hoax reports that he would decline 'Mickey Mouse' matches.

SOCCEEROO midfielder Brett Emerton declared he will always be available for Australia and dismissed reports he had said he didn't want to play "Mickey Mouse" games against lowly ranked teams.

As he joined his Soccerroo team-mates in Dublin today for Wednesday's (AEST) international with the Republic of Ireland at Lansdowne Road, Emerton said he was disappointed at last week's reports which

questioned his commitment to the national cause.

"I was misquoted, I never said that, I would never call them Mickey Mouse games, that's ridiculous," he said.

"I love representing my country, I always have and nothing's going to change.

"I'll always be there for a World Cup qualifier.

"I hope people didn't take much notice of what was written. When you don't say something and it appears in the paper, it's disappointing.

"People who know me, know I would never say that."

While Emerton has pledged his availability, Soccerroo coach Frank Farina tends to be pragmatic about taking players from big club matches in Europe to play Oceania qualifiers against the likes of American Samoa and Tonga.

Emerton made a sparkling Premier League debut for Blackburn on Saturday after finally securing a move to England from Dutch club Feyenoord, scoring in Rovers' 5-1 demolition of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Manager Graeme Souness labelled it the best debut he had seen.

"It was a great start to the season, hopefully it can continue," said Emerton.

"It was good for the confidence to go there and play a great match first up and to score."

Joeys need more games: coach

Joeys coach Ange Postecoglou has blamed lack of international exposure for his side's failure at soccer's under-17 world championships and warned the under 20s and Olympic team will also struggle without more game time.

The Australians bombed out of the championships in Finland in the first round after a 2-1 loss to 2001 runner-up Nigeria then followed up with a last game defeat from Costa Rica two-nil.

The Joeys, who had lost to Argentina 2-0 on Wednesday, needed at least a draw against Nigeria to have any hope of progressing to the next phase.

Following both matches the Joeys

had two players sent off and only recorded a sole goal by AIS graduate Dez Girdali.

Postecoglou said he would have to wear some criticism for the Joeys' failure but ultimately he felt it was a lack of serious game time that was costing many of Australia's international soccer teams.

"It comes down to the same thing — these kids need international exposure," Postecoglou said from Finland.

"In the end I think that's probably what's cost us more than anything else.

"With this group we haven't had enough time with them over the last two years to make them understand what's required."

When asked whether the lack of match practice may similarly effect the men's Olympic team — who've played just a solitary game against Spain in over a year — Postecoglou was adamant.

"There's no doubt about it," he said.

Postecoglou said administrative problems within Soccer Australia had made it difficult to put together a meaningful program for the sides he coaches — the 17s and 20s.

He was hopeful things would improve under new SA chairman Frank Lowy but also indicated expectations shouldn't be that high for the Australian 20's who play in the World Championships in the United Arab Emirates in November/December.

Parramatta Show their



Power In Pre-Season



Images By Carlos Furtado

Strikers Lose a Favourite But Regain a Prodigal Son?

The Brisbane Strikers have moved to shore up a front line denuded by the loss to German club Fortuna Dusseldorf of last season's top scorer, Anthony Roche, by bringing back one of their former young guns, Royce Brownlie.

Roche, who enjoyed a stellar 2002/03 season with the Strikers after being signed from Queensland Premier League Club Wynnum just before the season started, signed with Dusseldorf earlier last week and looked likely to be a sorry loss for the Strikers.

However, new coach Stuart McLaren has moved quickly to fill the gap by offering a contract to 23 year old Brownlie, who played last season with Parramatta Power after spending the previous season with Marconi.

Brownlie was just 18 when he last played for the Brisbane Strikers during the run-in to the 1997/98 season under Frank Farina, when the former Strikers coach blooded several youngsters.

While he didn't set the world on fire then, he moved on to play a couple of seasons in the Queensland Premier League where he strengthened and matured his game before signing with Marconi. While

with Marconi, Brownlie at one stage managed the rare feat of scoring all of his club's eight goals in four games between Rounds 21 and 24 of the 2001/02 NSL season.

Trialling for the Strikers, Brownlie was on the score sheet in Wednesday night's 4-0 win over Peninsula Power, scoring his side's opening goal.

After the match, McLaren told the BSSA that the Strikers had also offered contracts to three other new trialists who turned out for them in Redcliffe, these being Gold Coast City defenders Karl Dodd and Josh McLoughlan and right-sided midfielder Steve Fitzsimmons, formerly of Parramatta Power.

McLaren also told us that the club had fielded a number of other trialists, including goalkeepers Scott Higgins and Joel Morrison, striker Russell Miner (who had an injury-marred stint with the club in 2001/02), Anthony Paolino (a former Brisbane Toro player who has returned from a stint with Torino in Italy), Wade Russell and Aaron Thiesfield. Paolino and Russell scored impressive goals, as did a more familiar face - Peter Grierson, who has been back training with the Strikers for about two weeks.



Royce Brownlie: Signed and sealed by the Brisbane Strikers.

Viduka keeps quiet on Leeds future

Mark Viduka is keeping quiet about his future with Leeds United, despite healing a rift with manager Peter Reid.

Viduka, who scored his first goal for Australia in six years in the Socceroos' 2-1 loss to Ireland this week, has been expected to follow Harry Kewell out of the cash-strapped English Premiership club, which owes almost STG80 million (\$A194 million).

But Viduka, who had a training ground bust-up with Reid three weeks ago, said he was concentrating on the season ahead.

"Peter has said that I still have a future at the club and our ruck is over," Viduka said.

"I'm happy he's said that but I'm not prepared to talk about what it means in terms of my future at Leeds.

"I'm just glad that the season has started because there has been a lot of speculation and the club has been unsettled for the last few months."



Mark Viduka: The big striker is still pondering his future at Leeds United.

Sierra Leone team 'missing'

FOUTREEN members of the Sierra Leone under-17 soccer team have disappeared after being knocked out of the world championships last Friday.

The group should have left Finland last Friday but there was no sign of them at the airport, said FIFA.

Police in the town of Lahti where the team was based have opened an inquiry, FIFA revealed.

Of the 14 missing, 12 are players and two officials.

Sierra Leone were knocked out before the quarter-final stage which took place last weekend.



Vale Peter Nikolich

The Australian soccer world is saddened to hear of the passing of Soccer Australia life member Peter Nikolich.

The South Australian was known as a hard working administrator who was Chairman and General Secretary with the South Australian Soccer Federation (SASF) for many years serving a total of 28 years on the SASF board.

Peter Nikolich also holds a significant place in Soccer Australia history having been a founding member of the original SA committee in 1961.

Well known for his outstanding contribution to the game both in South Australia and nationally, Peter Nikolich was made a life member of Soccer Australia in 1989. He is also a member of both the SASF and Soccer Australia Hall of Fame.

ABSW wishes to extend its condolences to the Nikolich family - may he rest in eternal peace.

MURPHY ON DECK FOR GLORY



Shaun Murphy: The former Socceroo can't wait to play for the Glory this season.

After an eleven-year career in England, Australian international Shaun Murphy this week touched down in Perth to commence a two-year contract with National Soccer League champions Perth Glory.

One of the state's most successful soccer exports, Murphy turned down another season with First Division side Sheffield United to return home for personal reasons.

"My wife ... she's been suffering with breast cancer for the last two years so it was a joint decision between us that we would come home and seek the support of our families," he said.

The 32-year old defender is unlikely to have any regrets about leaving England.

"I basically called time on that part of my career," he added said. "I'll miss it. It was hard to leave" but I've moved on from that now and I'm focused on being here."

Having played abroad for Notts County, West Bromwich Albion, Crystal Palace and Sheffield United, Murphy is now looking forward to the big game atmosphere of finals matches in Perth, something that was a far-off thought when he left western Australia in 1992.

"When I was growing up and playing football here I never expected to see 40,000 people watching a game," he commented in reference to the record breaking crowds Glory has drawn to Subiaco Oval in recent years.

Source - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEBSITE.

Olympic Thrash Liverpool In Trial Match

Sydney Olympic defeated a courageous Liverpool Bossy to record an 8-0 result against the New South Wales First Division side last Wednesday evening at Ernie Smith Reserve.

Hundreds of local fans braved the cold conditions and turn out to see their side take on the National Soccer League Premiers. Liverpool began the match at a fast pace and tried to take the game to their opponents. But their effort fell short as Olympic picked up momentum.

It took over 20 minutes for the first goal to arrive. New Sydney Olympic recruit Denis Alilovic opened the scoring with a wonderful taken shot. From there the flood gates opened. Goals to Cardozo, Catanzaro, Karavatakis and Tomic completed the route.

Meanwhile, the Parramatta Power



New recruit Denis Alilovic opened the scoring for Olympic.

played out a tough two-all draw with the Marconi Stallions last week.

A brace from new Power recruit Fernando Rech was the highlight of the match while the Stallions had new recruits Todd Brodie and Nick Carle as their goal scorers.

No To QLD Lions

Soccer Australia has told the Queensland Lions they will not be included in the NSL for the 2003/04 season it was stated in the press last week.

The news was announced on the Queensland Lions website last Tuesday and reported in the Courier-Mail last Wednesday.

In announcing the news on their website the Lions quoted their CEO, Laurence Oudendyk, saying that Soccer Australia had told the club there was not sufficient time to admit a fourteenth team to the NSL for the coming season.

"It's a pity as we were really looking forward to a summer season in Brisbane with game, (sic) every weekend and the



QUEENSLAND
LIONS
SOCCER CLUB

two local derbies against the Strikers. Having two NSL teams in Brisbane would

lift the profile of the sport in Brisbane both with the public and the media" Oudendyk said for his website.

He told the Courier-Mail "We are disappointed. But we will apply again next year and will continue to work away at facilities and our player base. We will continue to strengthen our position, both financially and player-wise".

Now that the Lions are out of the 2003/04 NSL picture Brisbane Strikers supporters will no doubt be looking to their club to strengthen its position ahead of what seems an inevitable further tilt for inclusion by the Lions next year.

On present indications, this is a task the Brisbane Strikers seem deadly serious about achieving.

NOTE: FROM THE DRESSING SHEDS WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK!

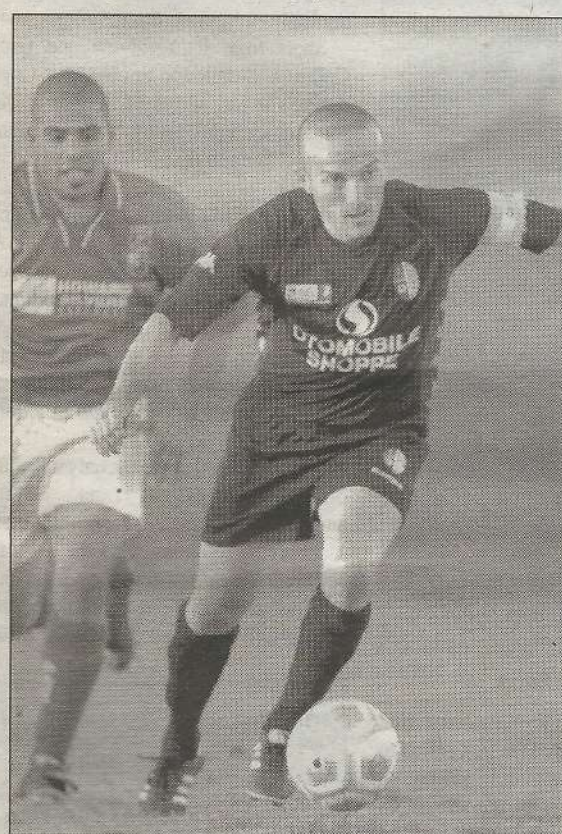
NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE MATCH OF THE ROUND

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: PREMIERS

	Sydney Crescent Star	3
	AC United	0

by Greg Stock

Lidcombe Oval saw scenes of euphoria on Sunday, with players and fans of Sydney Crescent Star celebrating their first Winter Super League Premiership trophy.



Pure determination shows on the face of Sydney Crescent Star captain Yavuz Ekinci, as he moves past AC's John Ghiso

After leading the competition from the first round of the season, it was a fitting finale for the club, who wrapped up the

three points with an emphatic 3-0 victory over AC United.

"It's a great day for the club" said defender Evangelos Petratos, "it was tough out there with the conditions but we put pressure on them by scoring the first two goals and then dug deep to hold them out in the second half."

With a gale-force wind at their back in the first half Crescent Star came out strongly racing to a 2-0 half-time lead courtesy of some brilliance from striker Hans Sevgin.

Given an opportunity to deputise for the suspended Tanju Balabanel, Sevgin grabbed his chance with both hands, his pace and close ball skills too good for the tall AC defenders, who struggled to keep him in check.

Trying to get on the outside of sweeper Ray Mandic, Sevgin was bundled over in the penalty box to set up the penalty shot for

Evangelos Petratos which led to the first goal. Two minutes later he backed that up, charging onto a Terry Atsas through-

ball to make the score 2-0. Petratos' goal came in controversial fashion after his first spot kick was saved brilliantly by AC United goalkeeper Claudio Fernandez.

His second effort again looked to be saved by Fernandez in a sea of arms and legs, but referee Srebre Delovski ruled that the ball had crossed the line and awarded the goal to Crescent Star.

The wind at their backs in the second half, AC United came out with some purpose but some good goalkeeping from Steve Tolios and some excellent defending from Askin Oygur, Unal Ogmen and Petratos kept the chances to an absolute minimum.

Their best chance of the match fell to former Bonnyrigg midfielder Javier Mancino, who was denied by an acrobatic Tolios save eighteen minutes into the second stanza.

At the other end Sevgin twice had strong chances denied. His first featured a shot which hit the left hand upright, his second forcing a reflex save from Fernandez with ten minutes remaining.

Substitute striker Joe Bruni wrapped it all up nicely with four minutes from time when he beat the offside trap to run onto a nice lob from Yavuz Ekinci to bury his shot from just inside the penalty box.

"The windy conditions were terrible for football but no excuses, we made two errors in the leadup to both goals and we paid the price," said AC United coach



AC United goalkeeper Claudio Fernandez gets his body behind the ball

Nick Porecca. "Congratulations to Crescent Star, they have been the best side all season and deserved to win the trophy.

"But we will regroup at training this week and look to a semi-final matchup with Hajduk Wanderers."

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: 1. Steve Tolios, 4. Evangelos Petratos, 6. Devim Huseyin, 8. Terry Atsas, 10. Yavuz Ekinci, 11. Volkan Kir, 5. Philip Marzec, 18. Tayfun Devrimot, 20. Hans Sevgin (13. Joe Bruni 76'), 23. Askin Oygur, 31. Unal Ogmen.
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak

AC UNITED: 1. Claudio Fernandez, 2. Robbie Grubba, 3. Michael McGovern, 5. John Kelso, 6. Robert Sacco (4. Domenic Oliverio 52'), 7. Chris Giometti, 10. Rock Giometti (8. Zia Younan 75'), 11. Vincenzo Sansone (13. Nathan Rivera 75'), 14. Johnny Ghiso, 18. Ray Mandic, 20. Javier Mancino.
Coach: Nick Porecca

Yellow Cards: Mandic (ac) 20' Sacco (ac) 59' Ogmen (scs) 64' Kelso (ac) 77'

Referee: Srebre Delovski

Assistant Referees: Jim Nicolaou and Kurt Ams

NSW FIRST DIVISION PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

Wanderers Advance

by Paul Goodwin

This match at Popondetta Park decided who would meet premiers Northern Tigers next weekend and it was always going to be a keen contest.

Just pipped at the post by the Tigers and still sore after their last meeting with Wanderers that surely cost them the title, John Gagro's Hurstville men needed little motivation to do their best in this one.

They went into this game with no fewer than ten players either under an injury cloud or out of action entirely, and it told in the end.

Hurstville found themselves under pressure from the word go. They did well to force the game into extra time, but could not hang on and win, conceding a golden goal 12 minutes into the additional period of play.

Hurstville's best first half effort was a Richard Plesa shot that went narrowly wide after the capable defender had won the ball deep and taken it into the box to try his luck in the 20th minute.

Wanderers were well served by attacking flank-man Allan Wawi and he came very close to scoring in the 35th and 38th minutes, one shot being tipped over and another going just wide.

Similarly Gus Orcajo went one on one with the keeper in the 42nd but his aim was too straight - straight into the arms of relieved custodian Steve Vuljanic. Hurstville's Richard Plesa broke the deadlock in the 55th minute. He put a 30-yard free kick into the top right corner - a real screamer - but it had come against the run of play.

Vengeance was swift. A well-taken corner by Wawi was headed in past the keeper by Hassan Nouh, who had been left unmarked just six yards out from goal - a fatal mistake.

In the 86th minute, Antony Jusic won possession for Hurstville and made a great run down the right, before cutting in and giving the pass to Kreso Tarkes, but the latter blazed a shot over the bar.

The game then moved into extra time and five minutes in a 30-yard free kick from Wanderer Fernando dos Santos clipped the wall and just cleared the bar, indicating that a winner might be imminent.

After a dozen minutes, George Issa, on a counter attack on the right, crossed to the far post where Wawi passed the ball back into the box for Samir Nicola. Nicola's initial shot was saved by the keeper but he followed up forced in the rebound to notch the golden goal.

The win means the Wanderers meet Northern Tigers at Ernie Smith Reserve next Sunday, while Hurstville must battle against Mount Pritchard, on Saturday at Nineveh Field.





SOCCER NSW

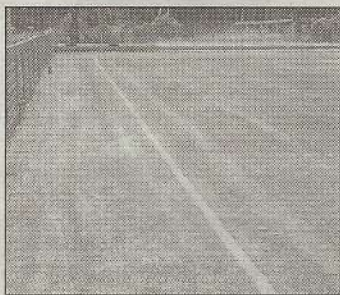
www.soccernsw.com.au



NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Bankstown Sign Borg

The big transfer news this week is with Bankstown City, securing the services of Matthew Borg for season 2003/4.

With rumors flying thick and fast that both he and strike partner Marc Hoenselaars were on their way to Jensen Park, we put a call in to the likeable forward, finding him working hard at his 'other' day job as a courier driver. "I am very happy to be going to Bankstown," said Borg.

"They are a very competitive club and they play a very attacking style of game so I am looking forward to scoring a few goals".

Borg is currently playing with Sutherland in the Winter Super League has had a perennial leg injury that has curtailed his goalscoring ability over the past few seasons. Having scored 17 goals in 25 games in season 2000, he scored a combined 14 goals in 42 appearances over the past two seasons with some pundits speculating that his best seasons might well be behind him.

"The injury has really affected my game and it has been a struggle week to week to get it right and as a result my form has suffered. But I am confident the worst of that is now behind me and I'll be looking to score a few for Sutherland in the Semi-Finals and then do a good preseason with Bankstown and go from there."

Yildiz Joins Suns

Rockdale City Suns coach Bill Pilovski has made his first signing for the forthcoming Premier League season, acquiring the services of ex-Fairfield Bulls defender Sefer Yildiz.

Having just returned from off-season trials with Swiss club side Neuchatel Xamax, Yildiz is pleased to be joining the club and looking forward to a big season. "I have been speaking with Bill (Pilovski) for the past week or so and I like to look of Rockdale so I have agreed to terms there for a season," said Yildiz.

"I went to Switzerland for some trials but I wasn't fully fit and picked up some groin problems which really affected me. It was a great experience to have been there but sadly the coach there couldn't see me at my best so I had to return back to Australia. My goal now is to have a big year at Rockdale and then have another crack at Europe this time next year."

Yildiz will not be the only new addition to Pilovski's squad with a couple of big signings expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

Actually, It's Mavros

A slight retraction from our story last week on the coaching staff at Stanmore Hawks. It has been confirmed that Sotris Mavros has been coaching the club the past two weeks with assistance from team manager Tony Panteli. Mavros a long time youth coach at the club and former assistant to the late great 'jinky' Joe Watson was given the role for the last two games of the year against Dulwich Hill.

"The boys put in a very determined performance for the final two games and I am very proud for the way in which they came back and won both matches," said Mavros. The club is yet to make a decision on an appointment for next season.

Kebabs - The Secret Weapon

Congratulations to the players, officials and fans of Crescent Star on their winning of the Winter Super League Premiership trophy for season 2003.

Having dominated the league in more ways than one this season (their kebabs are the best football cuisine we have seen in recent years), their 3-0 win over AC United was a fitting reward for a side that harbors plenty of ambition for inclusion in the Premier League.

Congratulations to Tanju Balabanel who had the Golden Boot trophy well wrapped up with 26 goals despite sitting out the AC United game with suspension.

Killarney Call in Cavalry

Killarney Districts beating Budgewoi 3-1 in the local Central Coast Premier League Grand Final at Central Coast Stadium mightn't be very big football news, but it was interesting to note that there were a few well-known names on the Killarney teamsheet - namely Martin Driene, Peter Preston, Nathan Byrn and Gary Meier.

Grape Vine

This weeks FTS Rumour file - Tanju Balabanel trialling at Wollongong Wolves, Bob Catlin linked with a move to another Premier League club, Javier Mancino a possible starter at Henson Park, Hawks pair Perry Moustakas and Neil Phillipou seen at Sydney Olympic training and a 'surprise' new coach to be confirmed anyday soon at Central Coast.



AC goalkeeper Claudio Fernandez attempts a Tarzan impersonation

Faria Forges Fraser Victory

by Paul Goodwin

Sydney University coach Stewart Porter expressed himself satisfied with his side's performance, and their whole season following their 2-0 defeat at the hands of Fraser Park in the final round, played at University Oval on Sunday afternoon.

Fraser Park mentor Ian Gillan knew that his side had to win really to put the pressure on Crescent Star and after this game his boys emerged as league leaders, albeit only for a couple of hours, the first time the team had hit top spot all season.

Fraser had to dig deep to repel a determined Sydney Uni side, missing skipper Rob Smithies, already in the USA after leading the side so well for most of the season.

Fraser took some time to subdue the students, who gave as good as they got and made life very hard for the second-placed visitors.

A strong wind swirled around the ground throughout the match and both sides did well to play some attractive and competitive football.

Tony Faria did a great deal of work on the left flank and his free kick in the 8th minute almost yielded the first goal of the game, but the shot whistled just past the far post.

Fraser keeper Steve Angelov earned his pay in this game with some wonderful reflex saves and great anticipation. He was by far the busier of the two custodians. In the 12th minute he did extra well to tip over a shot from Tyrone Lara, dipping late, that could have caught him out and he also pulled off a great stop to deny Adam Snyder.

The Fraser player causing the most problems was Bill Petrovski, but from his great run to the byline in the 28th, the fine ball he played into the goalmouth went begging. All was not lost, however, for moments later Petrovski decided to take matters into his own hands and made a

solo run through the middle. He finished by beating badly-positioned Uni keeper Matt Caw with a delightful lob.

Manny Papageorgiou was always in the attack looking for goals but several times when well placed to score he finished very poorly, his usually-deft scoring touch entirely absent on this occasion.



Fraser Park's Tony Faria

Angelov was able to make some vital stops towards the end of the first period to keep his side in the game. It was one of his best performances of the season, as the students were making a great game of it and taking the lion's share of possession.

The second half provided many nervous moments for the Fraser faithful and half time substitute Josh Heath, who took over from Pat Darvill, allowing Andy Christie to drop back, combined well with Tim Wilson to set up a gilt-edged chance in the 51st minute.

The Fraser defence was fully stretched and keeper Angelov once again was called upon to save the day.

Snyder nearly grabbed an equaliser after good work from David Gill, but

Andy Christie at the other end was also called on to head off the line from a Papageorgiou header in the 63rd.

Christie then had a dig himself from 30 yards that flew just wide across the face of goal, with Angelov, for once, out of the picture.

Fraser continued to press for a second goal and Clint Mayberry went close, following a 70th minute corner but his blocked shot that rebounded to Archie Markopoulos was then driven well over the bar.

Shots from Papageorgiou and Greg Collins both failed to trouble Matt Caw during the last stages of the game, but some quick thinking by Mark Guerrero allowed Faria to double his side's lead in the 79th.

Spotting Faria lurking out wide on the left, Guerrero switched play from wide on the right and Faria used his abundant pace to outstrip the Uni defence and then finish superbly.

It was a classy finish and took the wind out of the students' sails, but the home side had contributed to an excellent match.

They lead the league for only a couple of hours, perhaps, but Fraser's players and officials were back at their Marrickville clubhouse after the game to celebrate a great finish to the season and a second place, just one point behind the premiers, Sydney Crescent Star, for 2003.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY: Matt Caw (C); Luke Gray (David Gill 60); Adam Snyder; Peter Feehan; Pat Darvill (Josh Heath 46); Andy Christie; Daisuke Nakayama; Gordon Boyd; Jeremy Brown; Tyrone Lara; Tim Wilson
Subs not used: James Meyer (RGK); Daniel Tosolini; Peter Twomey
Coach: Stewart Porter

FRASER PARK: Steve Angelov; Daniel Cunningham; Alex Lens; Scott Wells (C); Greg Collins; Martin Bourke; Bill Petrovski (Clint Mayberry 60); Achilles Markopoulos; Tony Faria (Ben Mailer 88); Manny Papageorgiou; Mark Guerrero
Subs not used: Luke Panecassio (RGK); David Cuda; David O'Han
Coach: Ian Gillan

Referee: Alex Spiroski

Assistant Referees: Adrian Tamplin/club official and David Walsh

Yellow Cards: Nil

RE-BORN HAWKS WIN ARLINGTON DERBY

by Greg Stock

Stanmore Hawks finished their commitments for season 2003 in fine style with a 5-3 win over local rivals Dulwich Hill.

With a gale force win favouring Dulwich Hill for the first half, they got off to a flying start with two goals from Jean-Loop Rousseau inside the first quarter of an hour.

The Hawks pegged them back with two of their own against the run of play. Andrew Falas and Chris Hunt, with a spectacular free kick, made the score an even 2-2 at half-time.

Hawks boss Sotiri Mavros brought

on Dimitri Nicolaou for the injured Perry Moustakas just before half-time, and it proved the masterstroke. Nicolaou took control of the match in the second half, setting up two goals and scoring another as the Hawks finished the game by far the better side.

"Dulwich Hill are a very competitive side but the difference for us was our second half," said Stanmore coach Sotiri Mavros.

"Dulwich Hill couldn't cope with our constant pressure and I am very happy for the way in which the boys ran out the full ninety minutes." After some indifferent form in the last eight weeks, the win sees Stanmore finish the season

in sixth position on 37 points, some 5 points away from fifth spot and an appearance in the Final Series.

"It has been a tough past few months for the club and that's what makes these last two wins so important for us" continued Mavros.

"We were able to release a lot of pressure which had built up in the players minds and change that mindset to one of enjoyment for the game and they showed they have the ability this week."

Best for the Hawks was left sided midfielder Maurice Soler and substitute Dimitri Nicolaou while Dulwich Hill striker Jean-Loop Rousseau had a strong first half.



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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

WORRALL DOUBLE FELLS RAMS



Macarthur Rams

0



Hajduk Wanderers

3

by Paul Goodwin

This fixture saw a repeat of last week's result: Hajduk beating Macarthur by three goals to nil, this time at Lynwood Park.

From the start the Wanderers dominated the game and, though the first goal did not arrive until just before halftime, Hajduk had created plenty of chances.

A brilliant display from ex-Australian Schoolboys' keeper Peter Munsie in the Rams' goal kept the scoresheet blank until that stage.

In the sixth minute a long ball from stand-in Hajduk goalie Phillip Zabaks was received by Tim Gledhill who did well to control the ball and slam it towards goal, but Munsie made one of his many fine saves to deny him early on.

In the 24th Anthony Hartshorn took the ball down the right flank and, after rounding the Rams defence, he saw his shot saved well once again by Munsie.

In the 26th Gledhill combined well with Navid Vares and as Munsie came out to cover the angle the Vares shot went straight to the Rams custodian.

In the 33rd some great work by Todd



Trent Worrall keeps his eyes on the ball

Brodie, on the right wing, gave a perfect cross to Chris Camilleri, but again the Wanderers' man was denied by a great save from close range.

The opening goal came from the penalty spot, when Navid Vares was pulled down by Adel El Jamal, just outside the 6 yard box.

Matthew Breeze did not hesitate in pointing to the penalty spot and Trent Worrall sent the keeper the wrong way to score.

Navid Vares scored early in the second half, when veteran Hajduk man, Steven Scotti, put a through ball for his team mate, Vares, to

go around Munsie, take the ball into the 6 yard box and beat two Rams' defenders before slamming the ball home.

The second goal for Worrall came in the 63rd minute, after some great work by Gledhill who once again saw his shot saved by Munsie, but this time, on the rebound, Worrall got the ball just outside the 18 yard box and volleyed the ball into the top left corner to make it 3-0 to Hajduk.

The Rams did not really test Zabaks, but in the 66th Paul Wither received a ball from a corner and from close range his shot went wide.

Ten minutes later, Zabaks was very alert to pull off a brilliant save when substitute Daniel Hoare fired a shot from 25 yards out. With the wind behind the ball it went like a bullet, but Zabaks was able to push the ball over the bar.

Overall, the game was a great finish to the season by Hajduk Wanderers, completing their programme with a clear-cut double and ensuring a solid fifth place for the season and finals football once more.

Macarthur ended their campaign in disappointing fashion at home and will want to forget large chunks of the 2003 season.

They will look to re-build for the new year and, with a huge reservoir of playing talent in the region, they do have the raw materials to be force again in the future.



Hajduk Wanderers' Eddie Wong

MACARTHUR RAMS: Peter Munsie, Khan Uysen, Adel El Jamal, Peter Walker, Christian Miranda, Paul Wither, Andrew Borg (C), Matthew Toogood (Ben Greenwood 33), Adam Wither, Steve Green (Daniel Hoare 60), Dwayne Pearson
Subs not used: Aiden Mathews, Daniels Ockers & Dean Bradley
Coach: Washington Gonzales

HAJDUK WANDERERS: Phillip Zabaks, Robert Kuman, Anthony Hartshorn (Jason Stipicic 68), Eddie Wong, Trent Worrall (C), Todd Brodie (Mark Iorlino 60), Ante Mrdjen, Navid Vares, Steven Scotti, Tim Gledhill, Chris Camilleri (Mark Abi Arrage 78)
Subs not used: Ivan Aui and Paul Crisp
Coach: Tommy McCulloch

Referee: Matthew Breeze
Assistant Referees: Heidi Breeze and Leslie Foster
Yellow Cards: Hajduk Wanderers: Eddie Wong and Chris Camilleri, Macarthur Rams: Dwayne Pearson

SHARKS REVEL IN MUD

by Paul Goodwin

After their last gasp win the previous week, Ryde City Gunners were expected to trouble Sutherland at Seymour Shaw Park on Saturday night, but the home side had other ideas and soon established their superiority on a glue-pot of a pitch.

Ryde failed to show either the cohesion or the necessary impetus to repeat their shock win of the previous week and went behind just 28 seconds into the game, with a really sloppy goal.

There was almost dead silence as the five goals were scored in this game – it was not always easy to be sure that the ball had found the net, such was the low key nature of this end of season encounter, played out in front of a sparse attendance.

Sutherland knew that a solid win would put the pressure back on AC United the following day and that the south western Sydney club would surrender third spot if they tumbled at the hands of Sydney Crescent Star, or at least failed to snare one point from their own very difficult encounter.

The Sharks could not have asked for better luck than to be presented with the opening goal as they mounted their first offensive of the game.

The Gunners were caught completely off guard as Adam Mammoliti was allowed to advance down the right byline and cut in past a half hearted tackle before slotting past Chris Sharpe at the near post.

The Ryde defence looked stunned and well they might have been.

The defending was as sloppy as the pitch was already becoming and, despite a flying, wayward header in the 3rd minute from Rob Portelli, the hero of the previous week's late win, little was seen of the visitors' attack.

Instead, Sutherland took total control and eased to a comfortable lead as the game progressed, seemingly meeting only token resistance.

14 minutes into the game, and from a free kick delivered from the left by Iain Macdonald, Jason Connolly was able to glance in a header at the near post that appeared to bamboozle the Ryde defence completely.

Three minutes later Paul Bourke almost made it three when his snap shot from 20 yards cannoned off the right post and was scrambled to safety by a relieved Ryde defence.

There was nothing convincing about the Ryde backline on this damp night, on a pitch that was showing the signs of constant use and did not take kindly to

the constant rain.

In the 22nd minute very poor work in midfield by Ryde turned over possession yet again, and Connolly once more was able to find the target from inside the box, the ball eventually going in after ricocheting off first the right and then the left post.

Ryde's only glimmer of hope came, in the 38th, from Steve Baveas, by far their most enterprising and industrious player, who got into the six yard area only to be bogged down in the mud, giving the Sharks' defence time to close him down quickly.

The second half continued the trend with Ryde failing to come to grips with the atrocious conditions and the Sharks revelling in them.

Two minutes in, Baveas laid on a great pass for English import Simon Bloom, but the latter's low shot was gathered easily by the mud-splattered Zlatko Josevski.

Sutherland made the most of this let-off by scoring again a minute later.

A mistake by Erkin Elveren allowed Connolly to burst through and, with a man free on his right, he provided the square pass that allowed Iain Macdonald to slot home from 10 yards.

Connolly could have claimed his hat trick at that pivotal moment, but he put

the team first with that unselfish pass.

Paul Nero could have broken the duck for Ryde, but Sharks' skipper Matt Dihm raced back to clear off the line.

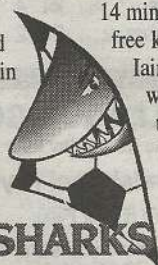
Chances came readily at either end after this. Sutherland's Paul Candelori put his shot just over the bar in the 65th, while a Baveas free kick just shaved the far post before going harmlessly out from a tight angle in the 69th.

Connolly was still looking for his hat trick in the 79th when his booming shot was palmed over the bar by the agile Sharpe and a minute later Shark Mark Lancaster clipped over the bar from close range.

Unfortunate Ryde defender Erkin Elveren chested the ball past his own keeper in the 81st for the final goal, after a ball had been played into the box by Macdonald.

Sharpe later saved from Lancaster while the last offering from Ryde was a 30-yarder from Matt Peatey in the final minute, but the game was an anti-climax in many ways and Sutherland would have been happy to take the points with minimal fuss after this one.

Ryde ended their season dismally but, already secure from the wooden spoon, they showed every sign of having done all the work the previous week and wanting their season to be over.



MSC Thrash Hurstville

MSC Liverpool surprised a sleepy Hurstville City Minotaurs outfit with a five-goal rout, ending the season on a high note.

With nothing to play for but pride, this result was important only to the diehards and statisticians.

Alex Araujo got the ball rolling for the south-west Sydney side in the 22nd minute, and MSC held the 1-0 lead to half time. Zarko Glavas struck the second early in the second half, and things began slipping away from the Minotaurs at that point.

Realph, Coronel and, finally, Scott Watkins all scored to finish off the drubbing, one of the worst suffered by Peter Sariakakis' men all season.

SUTHERLAND SHARKS: Zlatko Josevski, Milan Crnokrac, Mark Lancaster (Kory Babington 85), Matt Dihm (C), Garth Moring, Paul Bourke, Paul Candelori (Matt Borg 65), Adam Mammoliti (Phil Badalato 52), Monte Pfringle, Jason Connolly, Iain Macdonald
Sub not used: Adam Kurtz (RGK)
Coach: Vic Ellul

RYDE CITY GUNNERS: Chris Sharpe, Eddie Giraldo (Mark Williamson 69), Matt Peatey, Simon Turner (C), Dave Provan (Nathan Hall 75), Erkan Elveren, Paul Nero (Nicola Sartini 63), Steve Baveas, Robbie Portelli, Damien Pisano, Simon Bloom
Sub not used: Tony Petrovic (RGK)
Coach: Chris Cowley

Referee: Peter Vrlikovski
Assistant Referees: Wayne Lenardon and Shane Wells

Yellow Cards: Sutherland Sharks: Paul Candelori 29; Ryde City: Nil



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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE PREVIEW

with Greg Stock

The twenty-six home and away rounds now behind us, it's time for the business end of the season, with the five best teams in the league set to do battle over the next three weeks, culminating in the Winter Super League Grand Final.

No 'beg your pardons' in the Elimination Semi-Final this Saturday, as fourth placed AC United get set to meet local rivals Hajduk Wanderers. On offer is a berth in the Minor Semi-Final for the victor, for the loser it is instant elimination and a long off-season to think about what might have been.

AC United finished their season on something of a lull, beaten 3-0 by Crescent Star at Lidcombe Oval. Coach Nick Porecca looking forward to the opportunity to regroup ahead of what promises to be a very physical battle against two of the

strongest defensive sides in the league. "I was very happy with the performance of the team in both matches against Crescent Star," said Porecca. "We showed a lot of character in each game and I am confident we are coming together nicely ahead of the Hajduk match."

Porecca has a couple of injury concerns, with Domenic Oliverio still restricted to the substitutes bench with a leg injury while Ray Mandic (ankle) and Robbie Grubba (groin) are expected to have a light week at training but be passed fit to start. Midfielder Maytham Abdal has left the club to head over to the United States and will be absent for the final series campaign.

Across at Hajduk Stadium, the Wanderers are no strangers to semi-finals football, having made it all the way to the grand final last season. Coach Tommy McCulloch is in his last year with the team before joining Marconi as Youth Coach in the NSL, and he would like nothing better

than to finish the year on a high. They come into this game in excellent form, their only loss in the past ten games - a 2-0 defeat at Fraser Park - while AC have won four of their last five and were just pipped into third spot by Sutherland. In their two meetings this year, there has been one draw and one 3-pointer: Hajduk won the second game 3-2.

Such is the closeness between these two sides that it could really be just a bounce of the ball that decides the outcome. However the form AC United have shown in recent weeks in knocking over Crescent Star at Abruzzi Field lends me to think they have enough in the tank to knock over the Wanderers and extend their season another week.

In Sunday's Preliminary Final, second-placed Fraser Park will meet third-placed Sutherland with a spot in the Major Semi-Final against Crescent Star on offer for the winner: Fraser Park finished their commit-

ments for the home and away season with a solid 2-0 win over Sydney University. Coach Ian Gillan was happy with his side's form and, with no major injuries in the camp, has a full squad from which to settle on his starting eleven. The only absentee is Liam Austin who has left the club to rejoin Wollongong City in the National League.

Sutherland boss Vic Ellul spent his Sunday night watching Crescent Star and AC United at Lidcombe Oval, riding with every bump and near miss. Having watched his side punish Ryde City 5-0 the night before, Ellul had his fingers crossed for the Crescent Star win which left his side in third spot on goals for and against. "We did everything right in beating Ryde comfortably and so it all came down to seeing if AC could at least draw with Crescent Star" said Ellul. "It is difficult watching other teams decide your destiny so to say I am relieved is an understatement."

Sutherland haven't appeared in a semi-

final series for over a decade, and they'll be looking to former Fraser Park striker Derek Poimer to deliver against his old side. With Matthew Borg coming through the Ryde match unscathed, Ellul will be tempted to start Borg alongside Poimer with Monte Pfrengle tucked in behind. "Matthew Borg has come through the Ryde game well and he will be under strong consideration for a start," said Ellul.

"Paul Bourke is going to leave us this weekend for holidays but we have young Mark Lancaster ready for a callup into the midfield."

In their two meetings this season Sutherland were defeated 4-0 by Fraser Park at Kogarah Oval after they drew 0-0 at Seymour Shaw Park. With a question mark over the Sharks ability in the big games, we will stick our neck out here and tip rookie coach Ian Gillan and his Dragon side to come up trumps and meet Crescent Star in the Major Semi-Final next week.

Final Standings NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE SCOREBOARD

FIRST GRADE

SUTHERLAND SHARKS5 (J Connolly 14/22', A Mammoliti 13' own goal 18', I MacDonald 48')	RYDE CITY0
MSC LIVERPOOL5 (A Araujo 22', Z Glavas 52', B Realph 66', H Coronel 86', S Watkin 88')	HURSTVILLE CITY0
STANMORE HAWKS5 (A Falas 18', C Hunt 22' own goal 49', D Nicolaou 69', M Soler 73')	DULWICH HILL3 (H Cardoso 64', J Rousseau 9/15')
MACARTHUR RAMS0	HAJDUK WANDERERS0 (T Worrall 45' penalty/63', N Varess 54')
SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR3 (E Petratos 22', H Sevgin 24', J Bruni 86')	AC UNITED0
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY0	FRASER PARK2 (B Petrovski 28', A Faria 79')

UNDER 21

SUTHERLAND SHARKS3	RYDE CITY2
MSC LIVERPOOL2	HURSTVILLE CITY4
STANMORE HAWKS1	DULWICH HILL2
MACARTHUR RAMS0	HAJDUK WANDERERS4
SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR2	AC UNITED13
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY0	FRASER PARK2

UNDER 19

SUTHERLAND SHARKS3	RYDE CITY2
MSC LIVERPOOL1	HURSTVILLE CITY0
STANMORE HAWKS0	DULWICH HILL1
MACARTHUR RAMS2	HAJDUK WANDERERS1
SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR1	AC UNITED2
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2	FRASER PARK1

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sydney Crescent Star	24	15	5	4	64	39	25	50
Fraser Park Dragons	24	15	4	5	58	26	32	49
Sutherland Sharks	24	12	7	5	44	30	14	43
AC United	24	12	7	5	38	28	10	43
Hajduk Wanderers	24	11	9	4	41	23	18	42
Stanmore Hawks	24	11	4	9	40	44	-4	37
H'ville City Minotaurs	24	8	7	9	34	46	-12	31
Manly Warringah Dolphins	24	7	8	9	39	40	-1	29
Sydney University	24	9	2	13	36	40	-4	29
Dulwich Hill	24	5	6	13	34	48	-14	21
MSC Liverpool	24	5	6	13	23	37	-14	21
Ryde City	24	5	5	14	32	55	-23	20
Macarthur Rams	24	3	6	15	21	48	-27	15

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC United	24	17	3	4	67	22	45	54
Hajduk Wanderers	24	16	5	3	53	16	37	53
Fraser Park Dragons	24	16	2	6	59	29	30	50
Manly Warringah Dolphins	24	13	7	4	52	31	21	46
Sutherland Sharks	24	13	4	7	52	36	16	43
Dulwich Hill	24	14	1	9	38	29	9	43
Stanmore Hawks	24	11	3	10	40	34	6	36
Sydney University	24	9	7	8	39	33	6	34
Macarthur Rams	24	5	6	13	27	53	-26	21
MSC Liverpool	24	4	8	12	32	45	-13	20
H'ville City Minotaurs	24	5	2	17	29	68	-39	17
Ryde City	24	4	3	17	22	64	-42	15
Sydney Crescent Star	24	2	3	19	37	87	-50	9

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sydney Crescent Star	24	17	4	3	70	29	41	55
Manly Warringah Dolphins	24	17	3	4	62	24	38	54
Dulwich Hill	24	14	5	5	45	31	14	47
AC United	24	14	4	6	62	32	30	46
Fraser Park Dragons	24	11	5	8	48	34	14	38
Sutherland Sharks	24	11	5	8	50	42	8	38
Stanmore Hawks	24	10	6	8	38	39	-1	36
MSC Liverpool	24	8	3	13	28	39	-11	27
Ryde City	24	8	3	13	25	45	-20	27
Sydney University	24	7	5	12	35	49	-14	26
Macarthur Rams	24	5	6	13	29	59	-30	21
Hajduk Wanderers	24	4	5	15	29	53	-24	17
H'ville City Minotaurs	24	2	2	20	15	60	-45	8

Preliminary Finals

FIRST GRADE					
Fraser Park Dragons	v	Sutherland Sharks	Sunday 31st August	2.30pm	Fraser Park
UNDER 21					
Hajduk Wanderers	v	Fraser Park Dragons	Saturday 30th August	12.00pm	Fraser Park
UNDER 19					
Manly Warringah	v	Dulwich Hill	Sunday 31st August	10.00am	Fraser Park

Elimination Finals

FIRST GRADE					
AC United	v	Hajduk Wanderers	Saturday 30th August	2.30pm	Abruzzi Oval
UNDER 21					
Manly Warringah	v	Sutherland Sharks	Saturday 30th August	12.00pm	Abruzzi Oval
UNDER 19					
AC United	v	Fraser Park Dragons	Saturday 30th August	10.00pm	Abruzzi Oval

SUPER LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

as at Sunday 24th August 2003

26 - Tanju Balabanel (Sydney CS)

- 13 - Antonio Faria (Fraser Park),
- 12 - Anthony Sarmonikas (Stanmore Hawks)
Rob Smithies (Sydney University)
- 11 - Liam Austin (Fraser Park)
- 10 - Yavus Ekinici (Sydney Crescent Star), Chris Giometti (AC Utd),
Emmanuel Papageorgiou (Fraser Park),
- 9 - Tim Wilson (Sydney Uni), Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers),
Jean-Loop Rousseau (Dulwich Hill)
- 8 - Justin Creighton (Manly-Warringah),
Derek Poimer (Sutherland), Andrew Borg (Macarthur)



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First Division Elimination Semi-Final

MOUNTIES CONQUER NEPEAN

by Paul Goodwin

Stunned by an early goal, and remembering the defeat against the same opponent the previous week, fourth-placed Mount Pritchard fought back gamely to eliminate a threadbare Nepean 2-1 at Ernie Smith Reserve on Saturday.

The Mounties had a side made up of many players carrying injuries and Nepean was also missing some regulars. Their bench was looking thin and so was that of the Mounties, who replaced the same player with each of their three field-playing substitutes in turn - an unusual step, but evidence of how thin their ranks were on the day.

All three goals came from set plays in the first half and it was super-sub and veteran Fabian Screpis who scored the all-important winner on the stroke of half time.

Marc Hoenselaars almost put Nepean a goal up in the second minute when his well struck free kick from just outside the box was deflected wide for a corner by a defender stationed on the goal line.

From the ensuing Nepean corner, taken by Phil Hartshorn, the ball came free to the edge of the box where Michael Hoenselaars latched onto the rebound and rifled his shot low and hard past Mick Hartas.

Mount Pritchard got going after this early setback and threatened constantly from a stream of attacks.

Shane West in the Nepean goal was kept busy as shots rained in, and he did very well to thwart a lively Mounties' attack with Steve Zoric most prominent.

A well-taken free kick from Julian Volpano was tipped over the bar by West in the ninth minute and all the signs were there that an equaliser was imminent.

It came in the 22nd, when Zoric was brought down after making a fast track to the Nepean goal from a deep run.

Joe Moric tapped the free kick to David Gardiner and the Penrith Panthers star lashed the ball beyond the wall into the back of the net.

Nepean's best chance to regain the lead they had surrendered came in the 44th, when Marc Hoenselaars drove a 30-yard free kick, via an awkward deflection, at Hartas, who had his defence to thank for hastily clearing the loose ball.

But the Mounties had the last laugh, hitting the front in the dying seconds of the first period.

Lucas Flynn's corner from the right was nodded back at the far post by Matthew Hill and substitute Screpis was there to tap the ball over the line at the near post like any seasoned striker.

Screpis had only been on the field a few minutes and stayed on the field only until the 72nd minute, but did enough damage in that short time to take his side into the next stage of the competition.

The second period saw the Mounties continue to hold the edge and they defended stoutly.

Screpis almost made it two with a cheeky lob over the advancing Shane West in the 68th but the keeper raced back and managed to grab the ball before it could cross the line.

The last few minutes were frenetic and

referee Con Diomis made sure that there would be more than enough stoppage time should Nepean need it, but the Mounties were the ones who made most use of this added time and could well have added a third.

Marc Hoenselaars might have put his side level once more in the 89th but latching onto a Hartshorn pass he managed to steer his angled shot past the far post.

Hartas rushed out to deny Wood a late, headed equaliser with a desperate punch clear in the 90s, while a Zoric goal was disallowed for some misleading calls by the striker as he lined up his shot.

Overall, the hungrier side won on the day in a tight and entertaining contest.

MOUNT PRITCHARD: Mick Hartas, Lucas Flynn, John Cosentino (C), Julian Volpano, Craig Morton, Steve Zoric, Matt Hill, Glen Lowe, David Gardiner, Joe Moric, Miro Maco (Fabian Screpis 40, Nathan Zalenski 72, Luke McGregor 90).
Sub not used: Ian Lumsden (RGK)
Coach: Darryl Glover

NEPEAN: Shane West, Michael Wood, Lee Brown (Greg Robinson 90), Adam Bizuk, Mick Hoenselaars, Matthew Presello, Anthony Pisano (Andrew Carey 54), Phil Hartshorn, Nick Valsamis, Marc Hoenselaars (C), Glen McPherson.
Sub not used: David Sillance (RGK)
Coach: Andy Papias

Referee: Con Diomis

Assistant Referees: David Finlay and Damien Wanstall
Yellow Cards: Mount Pritchard: Matthew Hill 77, Lucas Flynn 89; Nepean: Glen McPherson 45, Michael Wood 53



Northern NSW Academy defeated the Olympic Sharks 2-1 in the NSW Women's Super League Preliminary Final over the weekend.

Goals from Amber Neilson and Ashley Wilson were enough to cancel off a strike by Olympic's Sara Walsh. Northern now advance to meet the formidable NSW Academy, undefeated for 37 matches, in the Grand Final.

In the Women's State League Preliminary Final, St George Association overcame the University of NSW, earning the right to play Sydney University in the Grand Final.

S.S.I. Girls Youth League Reports

The excitement is mounting as the competitions draw nearer to the end and the finals series suddenly becomes very important. There were no clean sweeps of the pints this week. Marconi, Olympic Sharks, Southern Branch and Wollongong Wolves all took six points from their respective days while North West Sydney Koalas split the points with Central Coast and the same thing happened with Manly Warringah Dolphins and Macarthur Rams.

Grade 12. Macarthur Rams grabbed the lead in the competition when they knocked off Manly Warringah Dolphins 1-0, relegating the girls from the northern beaches to second place. Nepean held onto third spot when they were too good for Wollongong Wolves, winning 4-0, while fourth-placed St George whacked Marconi 6-0. Central Coast maintained their chase for a place in the top four with a 2-1 win over sixth-placed North West Sydney Koalas. Blacktown rolled Southern Branch 2-0 and Northern Tigers shaded Olympic Sharks 2-1.

Grade 14. Olympic Sharks maintained their competition lead with a solid 5-0 win over Northern Tigers.

Three points adrift, second-placed Manly Warringah Dolphins kept the pressure on the front-runners with a 3-0 win over fourth-placed Macarthur Rams. North West Sydney Koalas are sitting in third spot after their 1-1 draw with fifth-placed Central Coast. Central Coast were involved in Round 10 catch-up action against St George, winning the match 2-0. Wollongong Wolves edged out Nepean 1-0 and Southern Branch rolled Blacktown 2-0.

Grade 16. Unbeaten Southern Branch are eleven points clear at the top of the table after they accounted for sixth-placed Blacktown 3-0. Second-placed Marconi posted a 7-1 romp against St George to maintain their eight point break on third-placed Olympic Sharks who beat Northern Tigers 3-1. Wollongong Wolves sit in fourth place following their 4-0 win over Nepean and they have North West Sydney Koalas breathing down their necks only a point further back after their 7-0 romp against Central Coast. Manly Warringah Dolphins played out a scoreless draw with Macarthur Rams.

In Round 10 catch-up action St George shaded Central Coast 1-0.

WINTER SUPER & STATE LEAGUE RESULTS & TABLES

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE - FINAL SERIES: ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Mt Pritchard 2 (D Gardiner 20m F Screpis 45m) Nepean Association 1 (Michael Hoenselaars 7m). **GRADE 21:** Hurstville ZSC 2 Mt Pritchard 1. **GRADE 19:** Hills United 2 Mt Pritchard 0.

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINALS:
FIRST GRADE: Hurstville ZSC 1 (R Plesia 18m) Wanderers Cedars 2 Extra time (1-1 full time H Noh 68m S Nicola 12m extra time). **GRADE 21:** Schofields Scorpions 2 Northern Tigers 0. **GRADE 19:** Mt Pritchard 2 Hills United 1 (1-1 full time 1-1 extra time).

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Tigers	26	19	4	3	62	23	39	61
Hurstville ZSC	26	18	6	2	64	27	37	60
Wanderers Cedars	26	16	6	4	65	33	32	54
Mt Pritchard	26	14	7	5	35	22	13	49
Nepean Association	26	12	7	7	50	25	25	43
Bathurst 75	26	11	6	9	29	24	5	39
Schofields Scorpions	26	9	9	8	38	35	3	36
Hills United	26	8	8	10	44	42	2	32
Western Rage	26	6	8	12	34	55	-21	26
White City	26	7	5	14	32	61	-29	26
Wollongong United	26	7	2	17	33	71	-38	23
Belmore Hercules	26	6	3	17	34	59	-25	21
Liverpool Bossy	26	4	8	14	27	42	-15	20
Mt Pritchard	26	4	3	19	20	48	-28	15

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE GRADE 21 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Hills United	26	15	8	3	85	27	58	53
Nepean Association	26	16	5	5	70	28	42	53
Wanderers Cedars	26	16	4	6	84	30	54	52
Schofields Scorpions	26	15	7	4	78	29	49	52
Northern Tigers	26	15	4	7	72	24	48	52
Hurstville ZSC	26	16	4	6	65	29	36	52
Mt Pritchard	26	14	7	5	67	34	33	49
Mt Pritchard	26	14	4	8	52	35	17	46
Bathurst 75	26	8	2	16	41	60	-19	26
Liverpool Bossy	26	7	4	15	62	56	6	25
White City	26	8	1	17	53	68	-15	25
Wollongong United	26	3	2	21	23	132	-109	11
Western Rage	26	3	2	21	26	143	-117	11
Belmore Hercules	26	2	3	21	25	108	-83	9

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE GRADE 19 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Association	26	21	4	1	97	25	72	67
Northern Tigers	26	18	1	7	66	32	34	55
Mt Pritchard	26	16	5	5	59	29	30	53
Wanderers Cedars	26	15	4	7	81	52	29	49
Hills United	26	15	2	9	65	28	37	47
Mt Pritchard	26	14	5	7	56	25	31	47
Hurstville ZSC	26	13	2	11	67	59	8	41
Schofields Scorpions	26	11	7	8	52	41	11	40
Bathurst 75	26	8	8	10	47	47	0	32
White City	26	10	2	14	52	56	-4	32
Liverpool Bossy	26	6	3	17	42	88	-46	21
Western Rage	26	4	4	18	38	95	-57	16
Wollongong United	26	3	3	20	31	106	-75	12
Belmore Hercules	26	2	2	22	19	89	-70	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO - RESCHEDULED FROM ROUND 18:

FIRST GRADE: Hakoah 2 (E Rodinstein 75m D Pozniak 85m) Greystanes Soccer Club 2 (A La Grazia 15m S Erel 40m), Concord FC 2 (E Semerci 20m P Bruneau 70m) Camden Tigers 5 (S Matthew 10m D MacKechnie 43/46m J King 51m E Briscoe 80m).

GRADE 21: Hakoah 1 Greystanes Soccer Club, Concord FC 0 Camden Tigers 4, Western Red Devils 4 Auburn Star 0.

ROUND 25:

FIRST GRADE: Camden Tigers 5 (Own goal 1m D MacKechnie 43m E Briscoe 47m G King 58/66m) Hakoah 1 (S Fischer 27m), Auburn Star 2 (S Jordan 30m V Panoutsopoulos 81m) Blacktown Association 1 (E Simbaqueba 41m), University of NSW 0 Hawkesbury City 0, Greenisland Soccer Club 2 (T Beha 3m S Quattrone 78m) Sporting SCC 1 (G Mosquera 60m), Western Red Devils 2 (G An 61m H Kim 80m) Springwood Soccer Club 0, Concord FC 1 (E Semerci 53m) Parramatta City 0.

GRADE 21: Camden Tigers 0 Hakoah 0, Auburn Star 0 Blacktown Association 3 (Win by forfeit), University of NSW Hawkesbury City Postponed.

Greenisland Soccer Club 2 Sporting SCC 3, Western Red Devils 1 Springwood Soccer Club 0, Concord FC 0 Parramatta City 5.

GRADE 19: Camden Tigers 4 Hakoah 0, Auburn Star 4 Blacktown Association 1, University of NSW 0 Hawkesbury City 1, Greenisland Soccer Club 1 Sporting SCC 7, Western Red Devils 1 Springwood Soccer Club 4, Concord FC 3 Parramatta City 2.



STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Camden Tigers	23	14	6	3	60	32	28	48
Concord FC	22	12	2	8	45	32	13	38
Greystanes SC	22	9	10	3	49	33	16	37
University of NSW	22	9	9	4	34	18	16	36
Springwood SC	21	10	4	7	38	25	13	34
Western Red Devils	21	9	6	6	47	45	2	33
Hakoah	23	7	11	5	38	36	2	32
Auburn Star	22	8	4	10	39	52	-13	28
Hawkesbury City	22	7	5	10	33	36	-3	26
Blacktown Association	22	7	5	10	36	40	-4	26
Greenisland SC	22	6	6	10	39	51	-12	24
Parramatta City	22	5	3	14	29	65	-36	18
Sporting SCC	22	4	1	17	17	39	-22	13

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO GRADE 21 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
University of NSW	21	15	3	3	63	18	45	48
Springwood SC	21	14	3	4	54	15	39	45
Hakoah	22	13	4	5	59	19	40	43
Sporting SCC	22	12	2	8	59	38	21	38
Greystanes SC	22	11	4	7	51	20	31	37
Hawkesbury City	21	11	4	6	53	27	26	37
Western Red Devils	21	11	3	7	51	48	3	36
Camden Tigers	22	10	5	7	41	25	16	35
Parramatta City	22	9	6	7	39	38	1	33
Greenisland SC	22	5	4	13	36	66	-30	19
Blacktown Association	22	5	2	15	42	87	-45	17
Concord FC	22	4	2	16	26	62	-36	14
Auburn Star	22	0	0	22	14	125	-111	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO GRADE 19 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
University of NSW	22	17	3	2	69	12	57	54
Camden Tigers	22	16	2	5	76	22	54	50
Greystanes SC	22	13	4	5	75	28	47	43
Springwood SC	21	12	5	4	35	16	19	41
Hakoah	23	13	2	8	57	43	14	41
Hawkesbury City	22	8	6	8	46	42	4	30
Sporting SCC	22	9	3	10	65	69	-4	30
Blacktown Association	22	8	5	9	36	48	-12	29
Concord FC	22	8	4	10	64	43	21	28
Parramatta City	21	6	5	10	50	44	6	23
Auburn Star	22	6	3	13	38	57	-19	21
Western Red Devils	20	4	2	14	30	86	-56	14
Greenisland SC	22	0	0	22	10	141	-1310	0

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES:

PRELIMINARY FINALS:
FIRST GRADE: Olympic Sharks 1 (S Walsh) Northern NSW Academy 2 (A Neilson A Wilson).
GRADE 21: NSW Academy 2 Olympic Sharks 1.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES:

PRELIMINARY FINALS:
FIRST GRADE: University of NSW 1 (P Raptis) St George Association 2 (F Forster L Snedden).
GRADE 21: Granville Association 1 Sydney University 4.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE - RD 25:

FIRST GRADE: Balmain Soccer Club 3 East Coast Magic 3, Roosters Football Club 1 Southern Star Sharks 7, UTS 7 Lithgow Workmen 0, Gladesville United 4 Kosciuszko 1, Colo Colo 2 Prospect United 3, Inter Lions 13 Gazy Lansvale 1, Trasandinos 3 Kellyville Colts 2.

RESERVE GRADE: Balmain Soccer Club 3 East Coast Magic 3, Roosters Football Club 0 Southern Star Sharks 0, UTS 3 Lithgow Workmen 2, Gladesville United 3 Kosciuszko 1, Colo Colo 3 Prospect United 2, Inter Lions 6 Gazy Lansvale 2, Trasandinos 6 Kellyville Colts 1.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE FINAL STANDINGS

FINAL STANDINGS								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Inter Lions	23	17	5	1	92	21	71	56
Prospect United	24	17	3	4	74	31	43	54
UTS	24	14	6	4	84	26	58	48
Trasandinos	24	13	7	4	57	30	27	46
Southern Star Sharks	24	13	5	6	54	38	16	44
Kellyville Colts	24	11	6	7	59	32	27	39
East Coast Magic	24	11	6	7	59	40	19	39
Balmain Soccer Club	24	10	7	7	58	46	12	37
Gladesville United	24	7	6	11	52	58	-6	27
Lithgow Workmen	24	6	5	13	40	53	-13	23
Colo Colo	24	5	5	14	26	57	-31	20
Gazy Lansvale	23	2	2	16	45	94	-49	17
Kosciuszko	24	4	3	17	24	84	-60	15
Ronsters FC	24	1	0	23	19	133	-114	3



YOUTH LEAGUE REVIEW

by Barry Davis

Here we go, Here we go, Here we go! Well for some anyway. Yes, we have reached the end of the Boys Youth League competition proper for teams placed sixth to fourteenth on their respective tables, that's all there is. Although every player in each of those teams has given his very best for the past six months, their teams have not qualified for the finals series and so they will need to pack their soccer gear away for a few weeks as they wait for the selection trials for the 2004 season. For the top five teams in each age group and division, there is at least one more week of soccer left for 2003. Good luck to every team. The Girls Youth league still have a couple of rounds to play and some catch-up games before they encounter the "end-of-season blues" while the Metropolitan League began their finals series this weekend.

Premier Youth League - The Last Round

In the end, Blacktown City won the Club Championship title by thirty-six points from Olympic Sharks with Marconi Sharks third, twenty-three points further back. Wollongong Wolves finished fourth, nine points behind the Stallions and Parramatta Eagles rounded out the top five, seventeen points adrift of the Wolves and ten points ahead of sixth-placed Northern Spirit. Penrith Panthers took out the wooden spoon as they finished ten points behind Southern Branch.

The table below shows the clubs that have teams competing in the finals series and the placing of each team within their competition. Fittingly, the Club Champions and the runners-up both have all five teams engaged in finals matches while Marconi Stallions, Wollongong Wolves and Northern Spirit each have three teams in the finals. Blacktown City and Marconi Stallions each have two Minor Premiers.

While Blacktown City had taken fifteen points from Sydney United last week, they could only manage to earn eleven points from them this time around after their 12s and 17s were held to draws. Olympic Sharks earned ten points from Northern Spirit, one less than they had managed last week. Marconi Stallions once again took twelve points from Penrith Panthers but this time the Stallions' 17s won but their 13s lost. Bankstown City Cubs grabbed another eight points from Parramatta Eagles, although it was ten points last week. Newcastle United and Wollongong Wolves split the points evenly to take the distribution to 12-15 over the two weeks. Sutherland Shire sharks and Central Coast also shared the spoils evenly after the Coasties had taken thirteen points at Plum Park last week.

Grade 12. Having already secured the Minor Premiership, Blacktown City remained undefeated – the only unbeaten team in any division of Youth League – when they were held to a scoreless draw by Sydney United. Sixteen points behind the Demons, Olympic Sharks finished in second place when they knocked off fourth-placed Northern Spirit 1-0. Spirit really are finding it difficult to win these days as this was their second loss by the odd goal in as many weeks and their non-winning stretch has grown to eight matches. Wollongong Wolves slipped back to third position when Newcastle United reversed the previous week's scoreline, winning the encounter 1-0. Marconi Stallions beat Penrith Panthers by the odd goal in five to secure fifth spot from Central Coast who rolled Sutherland Shire Sharks 1-0. Bankstown City Cubs finished with the wooden spoon despite their 1-1 draw with Parramatta Eagles.

Finals Watch. Blacktown City have the week off and that may be handy as they need to overcome a spate of injury and illness. Olympic Sharks will face Wollongong Wolves and the outcome is difficult to predict as Olympic knocked the Wolves over 3-1 in the first round and then the second round clash was a 1-1 draw. In the sudden-death match the season's honours are shared with the Stallions winning the first match 3-2 and Spirit winning the second one 3-0. Having said that, Spirit have not been in winning form for some time now and that may give Marconi the edge.

Grade 13. Paul Costantini's Blacktown City, having already slipped the Minor Premiership into their back pockets, completed their competition with a scintillating 6-0 thumping of Sydney United, a two goal improvement on last week. Michael Soames' Olympic Sharks suffered a major setback just one week before the finals when fourth-placed Northern Spirit rolled them 4-0. That has given the Demons a seven point lead in the final analysis. Parramatta Eagles secured third spot through a surprising 1-1 draw with wooden-spooners Bankstown City Cubs. Sutherland Shire Sharks made sure of fifth position with a solid 2-0 win over seventh-placed Central Coast who had beaten them the previous week. Wollongong Wolves' 2-0 victory over Newcastle United was not enough and they have settled for sixth spot. Penrith Panthers posted a rather surprising 2-1 win over the better-performed Marconi Stallions.

Finals Watch. Blacktown City have the first week off so the focus will be on the all-important clash between Olympic Sharks and Parramatta Eagles. Olympic won the first round match 1-0 but Parramatta bounced back to beat them 2-0 the second time around and that was only three weeks ago. Olympic have won three of their last six competition matches while Parramatta have won five of their last six and therefore they will probably be slight favourites. However, Olympic are the top scorers in this competition and they have the second-best defensive record. In the knock-out match Sutherland will probably be the favourites as they have knocked over Spirit twice in the league, both times by a three goal margin. Sutherland have won only three of their last six matches while Spirit have won four times in the same period.

Grade 14. Congratulations go to Marconi Stallions who have won the Minor Premiership after they won the replay of the match with Parramatta Eagles 3-0 and then they whacked Penrith Panthers by the same scoreline. The George Koimanis coached Blacktown City slipped back to second place even though they defeated Ben de Haan's Sydney United 1-0 for the second time in two weeks. Those results were very costly for United as they have dropped out of the top five. Parramatta Eagles made sure of third place as they edged out mid-table Bankstown City Cubs 1-0. Wollongong Wolves have settled for fourth spot, beating Newcastle United 1-0. Olympic Sharks grabbed the fifth place with a 3-0 win over Northern Spirit. Wooden-spooners Sutherland Shire Sharks drew 1-1 with the far better performed Central Coast.

Finals Watch. Marconi Stallions will have a rest so the interest will be in the clash between Blacktown City and Parramatta Eagles. The Demons will have a

slight edge as they beat the Eagles 2-0 in the first round and then drew the second match. Blacktown have won five of their last six games and Parramatta have won twice in the same period. In the sudden-death game Wollongong Wolves will meet Olympic Sharks and the Sharks may start as slight favourites, having drawn the first round match and then they beat the Wolves 2-0 in the second clash four weeks ago. Wollongong have won four times in the last six matches while Olympic have only two wins to show for their last six games.

Grade 15. Minor Premiers Marconi Stallions finished off with fine style, thumping Penrith Panthers 5-0 to maintain their six point margin over second-placed Blacktown City who posted a handy 2-0 win over mid-table Sydney United. Olympic Sharks were assured of third place even before they knocked off Northern Spirit 2-0, a result that saw Spirit drop back the fifth spot. Bankstown City Cubs moved up to fourth when they belted sixth-placed Parramatta Eagles 4-1. Sutherland Shire Sharks settled for a 1-1 draw with Central Coast and Newcastle United rolled Wollongong Wolves 2-1.

Finals Watch. Marconi Stallions will sit out this week, leaving us with two very interesting games to watch. Blacktown City will meet Olympic Sharks and this one will be very close indeed. Olympic won the first round clash 2-0 and then Blacktown reversed that result in the second round. The Demons have won five of their last six games while Olympic have won only three times in the last six. In the winner-take-all game Bankstown City Cubs Play Northern Spirit and that, too, should be a close affair. Bankstown won 3-0 in the first round and then Spirit won the second round clash 3-1. In the last six rounds of the competition the Cubs have won five times while Spirit have won just two.

Grade 17. Congratulations go to Newcastle United who hung onto their single point lead at the top to claim the Minor Premiership with a 1-1 draw with Wollongong Wolves who slipped back to third spot on goal difference as a result. Bankstown City Cubs slipped into second place when they accounted for Parramatta Eagles 3-2. Olympic Sharks are fourth following their 2-2 draw with tenth-placed Northern Spirit and Blacktown City remained in fifth position with a 1-1 draw with Sydney United. Marconi Stallions enjoyed a 5-0 romp against Penrith Panthers who had beaten them last weekend and Sutherland Shire Sharks drew 0-0 with Central Coast.

Finals Watch. Newcastle will be able to put their feet up for a week while Bankstown City Cubs will take on Wollongong Wolves. The teams have drawn twice during the competition so it is anybody's guess this time. The Cubs have won three of their last six matches and so have the Wolves. Extra-time may be needed for this one. In the knockout match, Olympic have beaten Blacktown on both occasions during the competition. The Sharks have won five of their last six outings while the Demon have won four times in the same period.

Super Youth League - The Final Round

AC United had won the Club Championship last week so they could probably afford the fact that they could only take six points from Nepean on the weekend. That left them seventeen points ahead of Macarthur Rams who took ten points from Blacktown Association. They have finished eleven points ahead of Manly Warringah Dolphins who are two in front of Nepean. The Dolphins picked up nine points against Hajduk Wanderers while Nepean added nine points at AC United's expense. Holding down fifth spot on the Combined Table are Northern Tigers and they are four points better off than Eastern Suburbs. Northern Tigers had a bad day at Camden Tigers who grabbed nine of the points on offer while Easts had a ripper, taking thirteen points from Mingara Lakers who ended the season with the wooden spoon, twenty-eight points behind Bonnyrigg White Eagles who piled on a large number of their points at the back end of the season. St George pocketed eight points at home to Hills United.

The table below shows the clubs that have teams competing in the finals series and the placing of each team within their competition. Macarthur Rams lead the way with four teams in the finals series while AC United, Manly Warringah Dolphins, Northern Tigers and Eastern Suburbs all have three teams in the series. It is interesting that eleven of the fourteen clubs will be represented.

Grade 12. Congratulations go to Manly Warringah Dolphins who grabbed the title on the final day of the season with a 4-0 win over Hajduk Wanderers. Second-placed Northern Tigers were held to a scoreless draw by Camden Tigers and so ended up two points behind the winners. AC United slipped up badly as they lost 4-1 to seventh-placed Nepean. They were not the only one of the top teams to suffer as fourth-placed Macarthur Rams went down 3-1 to sixth-placed Blacktown Association. Eastern Suburbs maintained fifth spot by giving Mingara Lakers a 5-0 hiding. St George beat Hills United 3-1 and Bonnyrigg White Eagles, winning 3-0 through strikes from Lincoln Sullivan (2) and Ryan Milner.

Finals Watch. Manly Warringah Dolphins will be watching with interest when Northern Tigers and AC United go head-to-head. The battled out 1-1 draw in the first round before AC won 4-2 in the second round, only three weeks ago. Northern Tigers have won only two of their last six outings while AC have won five times in the same period of time. The knockout match between Macarthur Rams and Eastern Suburbs is sure to be close. Easts won the first encounter 2-0 but the Rams won the second won 1-0. Macarthur have won three of their last six matches and Easts have won four of their last six.

Grade 13. Congratulations go to competition winners AC United who completed the season with a 2-1 win over second-placed Nepean to establish a four point lead. Macarthur Rams are in third spot, ten points behind Nepean, following their 2-2 draw with fourth-placed Blacktown Association. Blacktown had led the match until the final two minutes when Ryan O'Connell converted a penalty and then Stephen Pleskun provided an equaliser. Manly Warringah Dolphins were assured of fifth position before they knocked over Hajduk Wanderers 4-0. Eastern Suburbs beat Mingara Lakers 3-1 to finish sixth while Fairfield Bulls are seventh after they disposed of Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2-0. Northern Tigers were held to a 1-1 draw by Camden Tigers. Aaron De Silva scored for Camden and R. Williams found the net for Northern Tigers. St George and Hills United ended in a scoreless draw.

Finals Watch. AC United are not required for this weekend so we can focus on the other four teams. The clash between Nepean and Macarthur Rams will be interesting as they are all square in terms of results. Macarthur won the first one

1-0 and then Nepean got a 2-0 result in the second game. Macarthur have won only one of their last six games while Nepean have won four of theirs. In the sudden-death match Manly Warringah Dolphins are probably entitled to be slight favourites as they beat Blacktown on both occasions during the competition. The Dolphins have won four of their last six games while Blacktown have won only two.

Grade 14. Nepean won this competition several weeks ago and they finished off with a 1-0 win over AC United who tumbled out of the top five. Northern Tigers remained in second spot despite being held to a scoreless draw by sixth-placed Camden Tigers. Camden's draw cost them fifth place as Macarthur Rams moved from eighth place with a 3-0 win over Blacktown Association to dramatically grab the spot in the finals on goal difference. Hajduk Wanderers finished in third position after they accounted for Manly Warringah Dolphins 2-1 and Eastern Suburbs are fourth following a 2-0 victory over Mingara Lakers. Fairfield Bulls drew 1-1 with Bonnyrigg White Eagles (Bonnyrigg's scorer was Dylan Kelso) and St George smacked Hills United 6-1.

Finals Watch. Nepean will be able to put their feet up this weekend. The match-up of Northern Tigers and Hajduk Wanderers could go either way as they had a win apiece during the competition. Hajduk won the first game 2-0 and then Northern Tigers squared the account with a 1-0 victory in the second round. The Tigers have won three of their last six matches while the Wanderers won five times. Macarthur Rams are probably entitled to favouritism over Eastern Suburbs as they won both games during the season by the odd goal. Both teams have won four of their last six matches.

Grade 15. Congratulations go to Bill Garriock's Macarthur Rams who sewed up the Minor Premiership with a 6-1 trouncing of Blacktown Association who had beaten them last week. Scoring for the Rams were Stefan Donevski (2), Rami Saad, Jed Hilmi, Josh Ford and Danny Martinez. Eastern Suburbs are second by a point after they annihilated Mingara Lakers 5-1 and Manly Warringah Dolphins have secured third spot with a 2-1 win over Hajduk Wanderers. St George held onto fourth spot due their 1-1 draw with fifth-placed Hills United. Nepean finished sixth with a 3-1 success over seventh-placed AC United. Camden Tigers defeated Northern Tigers 2-0 with the goals coming from Scott Baldwin and Alec Fleming. Fairfield Bulls rolled Bonnyrigg White Eagles 7-2.

Finals Watch. Macarthur Rams can relax this weekend while the other four go at it hammer-and-tongs. Eastern Suburbs will go into their game against Manly Warringah Dolphins as favourites as they won both games during the season by the odd goal. Both teams have won five of their last six matches. For St George and Hills United the sudden-death game will be their third match-up in as many weeks. Hills won 3-0 two weeks ago and the teams drew 1-1 on the weekend. Both have won only two of their last six outings.

Grade 17. Congratulations go to AC United who wrapped up the title thumping Nepean 4-0 and so maintain their three point break on Hills United who trounced St George 8-0. Two points further back are Fairfield Bulls who got some revenge for the previous week by downing giant-killers, Bonnyrigg-White Eagles 3-1. Bonnyrigg scored first through a volley from Steve but the Bulls replied with two good goals before half-time and then they pushed on with it in the second period. Northern Tigers have retained fourth spot despite losing 2-1 to Camden Tigers. Northern scored an early goal and Camden had John Bulger sent off late in the first half but they bounced back and scored twice in the second stanza through Jay Digger who is the team's regular goalkeeper. Hajduk Wanderers are fifth after beating Manly Warringah Dolphins 2-1. Macarthur Rams missed the play-offs by three points despite their 2-0 defeat of Blacktown Association with the goals coming from David Twiss and Adam Gordon. Eastern Suburbs drew 1-1 with Mingara Lakers in a battle from the very foot of the table.

Finals Watch. While AC United take a break, the other four teams will be hard at work. The match between Hills United and Fairfield Bulls looks like a reasonably even affair as Fairfield won the first encounter 4-1 while Hills won the second on 3-1 and both have won four of their last six matches in the league. Hajduk Wanderers appear to have an edge in the knockout game as they have beaten Northern Tigers twice, 3-2 and 2-0 and both have won four of their last six outings.

Division One Youth League - The Final Round

There was sheer joy in the Irish voice of Schofields Scorpions convenor Michael Higham when he rang on Saturday afternoon. And why would it be otherwise as his club had just claimed fifteen points from Rockdale City Suns and secured the Club Championship by fourteen points in the process.

Congratulations go to them. Mt Pritchard were the runners-up after they took ten points from third-placed Ryde City who are now twenty points adrift. Fourth-placed Wollongong United grabbed nine points from Hawkesbury City and fifth-placed Dulwich Hill pocketed ten points from their clash with Stanmore Hawks. Parramatta City finished sixth after they split the points evenly with Granville and MSC Liverpool are seventh following their eleven point gain at the expense of Hurstville City Minotaurs. Mt Druitt Town have ended the season in twelfth position after they unexpectedly took nine points from the better performed Canterbury Bankstown.

The table below shows the clubs that have teams competing in the finals series and the placing of each team within their competition. Champions Schofields Scorpions have four representatives in the finals series while Mt Pritchard, Ryde City and Dulwich Hill all have three teams in the five. Twelve clubs will be represented in this year's finals.

Grade 12. Schofields Scorpions wrapped up the Minor Premiership last week and they showed why they are the champions with a 3-1 win over Rockdale City Suns thanks to a hat-trick from Shane Ardlie. Coaches Gavin and Wazza have worked hard with this squad and they deserve their success. Second-placed Wollongong United were held to a scoreless draw by tenth-placed Hawkesbury City while third-placed Granville posted a comfortable 2-0 result over Parramatta City who dropped back to fifth-place as a consequence. MSC Liverpool slipped into fourth spot on goal difference after they trounced Hurstville City Minotaurs 6-0. Seventh-placed Mt Pritchard defeated sixth-placed Ryde City 1-0 to deny Ryde a place in the finals series. Canterbury Bankstown downed Mt Druitt Town 3-0 while Stanmore Hawks got the better of Dulwich Hill with a 1-0 result.



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PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE - RESCHEDULED FROM ROUND 21: GRADE 14: Parramatta Eagles 0 Marconi Stallions 3.

ROUND 13:

GRADE 12: Marconi Stallions 3 Penrith Panthers 2, Bankstown City Cubs 1 Parramatta Eagles 1, Newcastle United 2 Wollongong Wolves 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Central Coast Coasties 1, Blacktown City 0 Sydney United 0, Northern Spirit 0 Olympic Sharks 1.

GRADE 13: Marconi Stallions 1 Penrith Panthers 2, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Newcastle United 0 Wollongong Wolves 2, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Central Coast Coasties 0, Blacktown City 6 Sydney United 0, Northern Spirit 4 Olympic Sharks 0.

GRADE 14: Marconi Stallions 3 Penrith Panthers 0, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Newcastle United 0 Wollongong Wolves 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Central Coast Coasties 1, Blacktown City 1 Sydney United 0, Northern Spirit 0 Olympic Sharks 3.

GRADE 15: Marconi Stallions 5 Penrith Panthers 0, Bankstown City Cubs 4 Parramatta Eagles 1, Newcastle United 2 Wollongong Wolves 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Central Coast Coasties 1, Blacktown City 2 Sydney United 0, Northern Spirit 0 Olympic Sharks 2.

GRADE 17: Marconi Stallions 5 Penrith Panthers 0, Bankstown City Cubs 3 Parramatta Eagles 2, Newcastle United 1 Wollongong Wolves 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Central Coast Coasties 0, Blacktown City 1 Sydney United 1, Northern Spirit 2 Olympic Sharks 2.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 12 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	26	21	5	0	61	13	48	68
Olympic Sharks	26	16	4	6	49	26	23	52
Wollongong Wolves	26	15	6	5	35	20	15	51
Northern Spirit	26	15	3	8	58	30	28	48
Marconi Stallions	26	13	5	8	43	36	7	44
Central Coast	26	13	4	9	39	28	11	43
Newcastle United	26	12	5	9	41	34	7	41
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	13	1	12	34	38	-4	40
Penrith Panthers	26	12	2	12	38	35	3	38
Sydney United	26	8	4	14	32	42	-10	28
Parramatta Eagles	26	7	5	14	26	39	-13	26
Sutherland Shire	26	4	6	16	16	52	-36	18
Sutherland Shire	26	3	3	20	18	57	-39	12
Bankstown City Cubs	26	2	3	21	9	49	-40	9

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	26	21	3	2	66	12	54	66
Olympic Sharks	26	19	2	5	71	18	53	59
Parramatta Eagles	26	17	5	4	50	22	28	56
Northern Spirit	26	18	0	8	69	33	36	54
Sutherland Shire	26	13	8	5	48	25	23	47
Wollongong Wolves	26	13	5	8	60	27	33	44
Central Coast	26	12	4	10	35	37	-2	40
Marconi Stallions	26	10	5	11	44	43	1	35
Newcastle United	26	10	3	13	26	35	-9	33
Sydney United	26	6	4	16	23	66	-43	22
Sutherland Shire	26	7	1	18	27	74	-47	22
Penrith Panthers	26	5	5	16	28	42	-14	20
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	6	0	20	17	68	-51	18
Bankstown City	26	2	1	23	10	72	-62	7

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Marconi Stallions	26	18	4	4	54	21	33	58
Blacktown City	26	18	3	5	39	14	25	57
Parramatta Eagles	26	15	7	4	45	24	21	52
Wollongong Wolves	26	15	6	5	53	35	18	51
Olympic Sharks	26	11	10	5	32	17	15	43
Sydney United	26	12	6	8	41	24	17	42
Central Coast	26	8	9	9	34	32	2	33
Bankstown City	26	7	11	8	23	23	0	32
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	7	9	10	27	43	-16	30
Newcastle United	26	6	9	11	24	36	-12	27
Northern Spirit	26	6	7	13	29	38	-9	25
Penrith Panthers	26	4	6	16	24	46	-22	18
Sutherland Shire	26	3	5	18	18	43	-25	14

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Marconi Stallions	26	20	4	2	59	17	42	64
Blacktown City	26	18	4	4	61	20	41	58
Olympic Sharks	26	16	5	5	42	23	19	53
Bankstown City	26	13	6	7	39	27	12	45
Northern Spirit	26	12	8	6	44	24	20	44
Parramatta Eagles	26	12	3	11	37	33	4	39
Sydney United	26	9	4	13	33	38	-5	31
Sutherland Shire	26	8	7	11	35	42	-7	31
Newcastle United	26	7	8	11	35	46	-11	29
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	7	7	12	40	39	1	28
Wollongong Wolves	26	8	4	14	26	45	-19	28
Sutherland Shire	26	6	5	15	28	61	-33	23
Central Coast	26	5	7	14	21	43	-22	22
Penrith Panthers	26	2	6	18	16	58	-42	12

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 17 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	26	15	7	4	50	21	29	52
Blacktown City	26	14	9	3	52	29	23	51
Wollongong Wolves	26	15	6	5	51	32	19	51
Olympic Sharks	26	15	5	6	57	32	25	50
Blacktown City	26	12	8	6	42	29	13	44
Southern Branch YL	26	11	6	9	40	40	0	39
Parramatta Eagles	26	10	5	11	37	36	1	35
Marconi Stallions	26	9	6	11	42	33	9	33
Sydney United	26	6	10	10	26	32	-6	28
Northern Spirit	26	8	3	15	38	54	-16	27
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	8	3	15	20	54	-34	27
Central Coast	26	5	9	12	27	45	-18	24
Sutherland Shire	26	5	7	14	22	40	-18	22
Penrith Panthers	26	6	2	18	24	51	-27	20

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	130	90	23	17	269	88	181	293
Olympic Sharks	130	77	26	27	251	116	135	257
Marconi Stallions	130	70	24	36	242	150	92	234
Wollongong Wolves	130	66	27	37	225	159	66	225
Parramatta Eagles	130	61	25	44	195	154	41	208
Northern Spirit	130	59	21	50	238	179	59	198
Newcastle United	130	50	32	48	176	172	4	182
Central Coast	130	43	33	54	156	185	-29	162
Sydney United	130	41	28	61	155	202	-47	151
Bankstown City	130	38	30	62	133	200	-67	144
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	130	41	20	69	138	242	-104	143
Sutherland Shire	130	32	30	68	141	207	-66	126
Southern Branch YL	130	32	22	76	138	301	-163	118
Penrith Panthers	130	29	21	80	130	232	-102	108

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE - ROUND 13:

GRADE 12: St George 3 Hills United 1, Macarthur Rams 1 Blacktown Association 1, AC United 1 Nepean Association 4, Eastern Suburbs 5 Mingara Lakers 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 4 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Camden Tigers 0 Northern Tigers 0, Fairfield Bulls 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3.

GRADE 13: St George 0 Hills United 0, Macarthur Rams 2 Blacktown Association 2, AC United 2 Nepean Association 1, Eastern Suburbs 3 Mingara Lakers 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 4 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Camden Tigers 1 Northern Tigers 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.

GRADE 14: St George 6 Hills United 1, Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown Association 0, AC United 0 Nepean Association 1, Eastern Suburbs 2 Mingara Lakers 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Camden Tigers 0 Northern Tigers 0, Fairfield Bulls 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1.

GRADE 15: St George 1 Hills United 1, Macarthur Rams 6 Blacktown Association 1, AC United 1 Nepean Association 3, Eastern Suburbs 5 Mingara Lakers 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Camden Tigers 2 Northern Tigers 0, Fairfield Bulls 7 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2.

GRADE 17: St George 0 Hills United 8, Macarthur Rams 2 Blacktown Association 0, AC United 4 Nepean Association 0, Eastern Suburbs 1 Mingara Lakers 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Camden Tigers 2 Northern Tigers 1, Fairfield Bulls 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 12 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manly Warringah	26	19	6	1	63	11	52	63
Northern Tigers	26	19	4	3	63	18	45	61
AC United	26	19	3	4	72	32	40	60
Macarthur Rams	26	14	6	6	47	30	17	48
Eastern Suburbs	26	13	7	6	59	30	29	46
Blacktown Assoc.	26	11	8	7	31	19	12	41
Nepean Association	26	11	4	11	37	29	8	37
Hills United	26	10	1	15	30	40	-10	31
Bonnyrigg WE	26	7	9	10	23	25	-2	30
Camden Tigers	26	7	9	10	26	36	-10	30
St George	26	8	5	13	32	49	-17	29
Mingara Lakers	26	5	2	19	20	67	-47	14
Fairfield Bulls	26	3	2	21	21	72	-51	11
Hajduk Wanderers	26	2	2	22	15	78	-63	8

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC United	26	19	5	2	65	24	41	62
Nepean Association	26	18	4	4	52	18	34	58
Macarthur Rams	26	13	9	4	55	22	33	48
Blacktown Assoc.	26	14	6	6	59	29	30	48
Manly Warringah	26	14	4	8	45	28	17	46
Eastern Suburbs	26	11	4	11	43	50	-7	37
Fairfield Bulls	26	9	8	9	30	33	-3	36
Hills United	26	10	5	11	43	47	-4	35
Northern Tigers	26	10	5	11	33	39	-6	35
St George	26	9	7	10	34	35	-1	34
Camden Tigers	26	6	3	17	33	51	-18	21
Mingara Lakers	26	9	3	14	33	54	-21	21
Hajduk Wanderers	26	3	3	20	19	58	-39	12
Bonnyrigg WE	26	1	5	20	19	75	-56	8

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Association	26	20	4	2	58	13	45	64
Northern Tigers	26	14	8	4	43	20	23	50
Hajduk Wanderers	26	15	4	7	49	22	27	49
Eastern Suburbs	26	13	6	7	49	28	21	45
Macarthur Rams	26	12	4	10	41	33	8	40
Camden Tigers	26	11	7	8	37	38	-1	40
Fairfield Bulls	26	11	6	9	38	35	3	39
AC United	26	11	6	9	38	40	-2	39
Bonnyrigg WE	26	11	5	10	29	37	-8	38
Manly Warringah	26	10	4	12	46	47	-1	34
St George	26	6	8	12	24	47	-23	26
Blacktown Assoc.	26	6	5	15	29	48	-19	23
Mingara Lakers	26	6	2	18	23	47	-24	14
Hills United	26	0	3	23	12	61	-49	3

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15 FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	26	19	1	6	59	21	38	58
Eastern Suburbs	26	18	3	5	53	23	30	57
Manly Warringah	26	18	2	6	40	17	23	56
St George	26	12	8	6	40	29	11	44
Hills United	26	12	7	7	29	16	13	43
Nepean Association	26	11	7	8	37	28	9	40
AC United	26	10	6	10	37	31	6	36
Hajduk Wanderers	26	11	3	12	32	31	1	36
Fairfield Bulls	26	10	5	11	40	36	4	35
Blacktown Assoc.	26	8	4	14	33	51	-18	28
Camden Tigers	26	6	7	13	19	40	-21	25
Mingara Lakers	26	6	8	12	18	33	-15	21
Northern Tigers	26	3	7	16	19	42	-23	16
Bonnyrigg WF	26	3	2	21	15	73	-58	11



GALA DAY SUCCESS

Soccer NSW was proud to host the second annual Girls Primary School Gala Days on Wednesday the 13th & Thursday 14th of August at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood.

Over 700 girls participated over the two days. They came from primary schools that ranged from Brooklyn in the north to the Blue Mountains in the west, from Liverpool to Rockdale in the city.

The focus was mainly on participation, with numerous groups graded into categories consisting of novice, semi-experienced and experienced.

Each team played a minimum of three games and also participated in a shooting competition with soccer prize packs on offer for their schools.

On hand to give out awards were also USA bound Qantas Matildas, Taryn Rockall and Cassie Kell.



"The days were a resounding with many of girls having a great just playing soccer for the fun of it."

"Unfortunately the first day was a little overcast and but the girls didn't mind a bit."

"Thursday turned on the weather and a great time was had by all," said Sharon Dewar, Soccer NSW Female Participation Manager.

The gala days were held in light of last week's media reports showing that soccer is the second most popular female team sport in Australia, and is rapidly catching up on netball.

The inaugural High School Girls Gala Days will be held at Valentine Sports Park on the 27th/28th August with 29 teams from as far afield the Central Coast to Campbelltown competing.



World Cup bound Qantas Matildas, Cassie Kell (left) and Taryn Rockall (right) with some young fans at Morrison Bay Park

Record Player Registration

Soccer NSW President, Mr. Tom Doumanis, announced on Sunday that 2003 has been a record year for player registrations.

"The popularity of Soccer in NSW is reflected in the growth of the sport from 157,872 in 2002 to 171,759 in 2003, an effective growth of 8.8%."

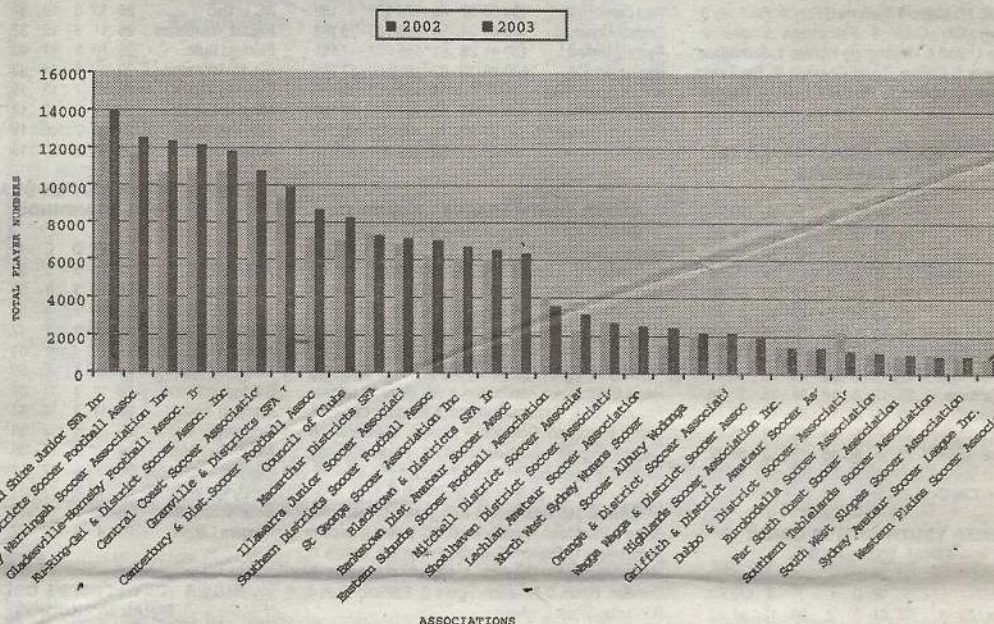
"It is not unduly optimistic to project that, based on these growth figures, by the 2006 World Cup in Germany, we could expect growth of up to 250,000."

"It is also very encouraging to see that over the past year there has been a 28.5% increase in female registration numbers from 18,135 (2002) to 23,305 (2003)."

"Contributing to this female growth is a 30.48% increase in junior female (6-17yrs) registration numbers from 11,500 (2002) to 15,005 (2003)," concluded Mr. Doumanis.



REGISTERED PLAYER COMPARISON BY ASSOCIATION



YOUTH LEAGUE REVIEW

(Continued from page 24)

Finals Watch. Schofields Scorpions are not required this weekend so we can concentrate on the other four teams. Wollongong United knocked off Granville 4-3 in the first round and the teams battled out a 2-2 draw in the second round. Wollongong have won four of their last six matches while Granville have recorded five wins in the same period. In the knockout match MSC Liverpool won both competition matches against Parramatta City, 2-0 and 1-0. MSC have posted five wins from their last six games while Parramatta have not won any of their last six.

Grade 13. Canterbury Bankstown were crowned three weeks ago but this week they suffered a shock 2-1 loss to eleventh-placed Mt Druitt Town. They remain seven points clear of second-placed Schofields Scorpions who beat Rockdale City Suns 4-2 thanks to goals from Lee Larbalescier, Andrew Oesing and a double to U12 player Shane Ardlie who had already helped himself to a treble in his own team to move to the leading goal-scorer title within the club. Mt Pritchard are third on goal difference after they accounted for Ryde City 3-1, causing Ryde to drop to fifth spot. Granville knocked off Parramatta City 3-0 to take over fourth place. Sixth-placed MSC Liverpool thumped Hurstville City Minotaurs 6-1 while Wollongong United were held to a 1-1 draw by Hawkesbury City and Dulwich Hill edged out Stanmore Hawks 2-1.

Finals Watch. While Canterbury Bankstown cool their heels, the other four teams will be very busy indeed. Schofields Scorpions are probably entitled to be considered favourites after they drew with Mt Pritchard in the first round and then beat them 2-1 in the second match. The Scorpions have won five of their last six matches while Mt Pritchard have won only three. The sudden death match sees Granville take on Ryde City. After Ryde won the first round match 2-0 the teams drew 2-2 the second time around. Granville have won four of their last six games and Ryde have won three times in the same period.

Grade 14. Schofields Scorpions won the title last week and they continued their winning ways with a 5-0 win over Rockdale City Suns. Troy Earp went into this match knowing that he needed a hat-trick to join U12s player Shane Ardlie at the top of the club's goal-scoring list and that's is exactly what he achieved -

a treble - with the other goals coming from Alex Cruceanu and Mitchell Coote. Canterbury Bankstown moved to second-place after they beat Mt Druitt Town 2-1 to move ahead of Ryde City who went down 1-0 to fifth-placed Mt Pritchard. Fourth-placed Dulwich Hill whacked Stanmore Hawks 6-0. MSC Liverpool retained sixth spot despite their 1-1 draw with Hurstville City Minotaurs. Wollongong United were a bit too good for Hawkesbury City, winning the game 3-1 and Parramatta City edged out Granville 2-1.

Finals Watch. Schofields Scorpions have a week off while Canterbury Bankstown will go up against Ryde City. Canterbury Bankstown have the edge since they beat Ryde 2-1 in the first round and then drew 0-0 with them in the second game. Canterbury Bankstown have won four of their last six games while Ryde have won only three times in that period. The knockout match features Dulwich Hill as favourites against Mt Pritchard. Dulwich Hill have won both competition matches, 5-1 and 2-0, and they have both won four of their last six outings.

Grade 15. Congratulations go to Dulwich Hill who wrapped up the Minor Premiership with a handy 3-0 win over Stanmore Hawks. They finished the season four points in front of Mt Pritchard who lost 2-1 to fourth-placed Ryde City. Third-placed Schofields scorpions rolled fifth-placed Rockdale City Suns 3-1 courtesy of strikes from Nathan Cooper, Kieran McLean and Ivan Vukancic. Hurstville City Minotaurs slipped-up and missed out on fifth spot when they lost 2-0 to mid-table MSC Liverpool and the same thing applied to Wollongong United who needed a win but could only manage a 2-2 draw with Hawkesbury City. Granville and Parramatta City ground out a scoreless draw and Dulwich Hill defeated Stanmore Hawks 3-0. Mt Druitt Town scraped in 1-0 against Canterbury Bankstown.

Finals Watch. Dulwich Hill will sit and watch this week while Mt Pritchard take on Schofields Scorpions. The Scorpions won the first round game 1-0 and then Mounties got square the second time around with a 3-1 victory. Schofields have won four of their last six games while Mt Pritchard have won three of their last six. Things are just as tight in the knockout match as Ryde won their first round 3-0 but Rockdale evened the points with a 3-2 second round win. Ryde

have won three times in their last six games and Rockdale have posted only two victories in the same period.

Grade 17. Stanmore Hawks had been declared Minor Premiers last week and they extended their lead to five points following their 0-0 draw with Dulwich Hill who moved to second spot after Hawkesbury City lost 3-1 to Wollongong City who have now claimed fifth position. Parramatta City retained fourth place with a 2-1 win over Granville. Mt Pritchard missed the opportunity to grab a place in the finals when they played out an exciting 3-3 draw with Ryde City. Mt Druitt Town ended their season on a high with a 6-0 smacking of Canterbury Bankstown and MSC Liverpool ground out a 1-1 draw with Hurstville City Minotaurs. Schofields Scorpions had a stunning 6-0 win over Rockdale City Suns through goals from Louis Freitas (2), Neil Warren (pen), Declan Brannigan, Dragan Savic and Troy Eedy.

Finals Watch. Stanmore are not need this week. Dulwich Hill will start favourites against Hawkesbury City as they have won both rounds of the competition, 3-1 and 5-0, and they have won five times from their last six outings while Hawkesbury have won only three times. The sudden death match will be interesting as Wollongong won the first round encounter 4-1 but Parramatta City evened things up with a 3-1 win in the second round. Parramatta have won three of their last six while Wollongong have won only two during the same period.

attack Metropolitan League - The Semi Finals

The Finals Series got off to a good start at Yerrinbool on Sunday. Minor Premiers Bankstown had the day off and so all the interest was directed toward the other four teams. In the Preliminary Semi Final second-placed Gladesville Hornsby maintained their unbeaten status for the season with a 2-1 victory over Granville. The winners will meet Bankstown at the Harrie Denning Centre on Sunday at 1.45pm.

In the Elimination Semi Final, Macarthur were a bit too strong for Eastern Suburbs, winning the match 3-1 with the goals for the winners coming from Mitchell "Stitch" Brown (2) and Kien Oliver. Macarthur will now play Granville on Sunday at the Harrie Denning Centre at 3.00pm.



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ENGLISH



PREMIER LEAGUE

Bolton 2 Blackburn 2, Chelsea 2 Leicester 1, Everton 3 Fulham 1, Man City 1 Portsmouth 1, Newcastle 1 Man Utd 2, Southampton 0 Birmingham 0, Tottenham 2 Leeds Utd 1, Wolverhampton 0 Charlton 4, Aston Villa 0 Liverpool 0, Middlesbrough 0 Arsenal 4 (Blackburn vs Man City - Tuesday AET).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Man. United	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Chelsea	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Blackburn	2	1	1	0	7	3	4
Man. City	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Portsmouth	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Birmingham	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Charlton	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Everton	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Tottenham	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Fulham	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Southampton	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Leeds	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Leicester	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Newcastle	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Villa	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Liverpool	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Bolton	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Middlesbrough	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Wolves	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

FIRST DIVISION

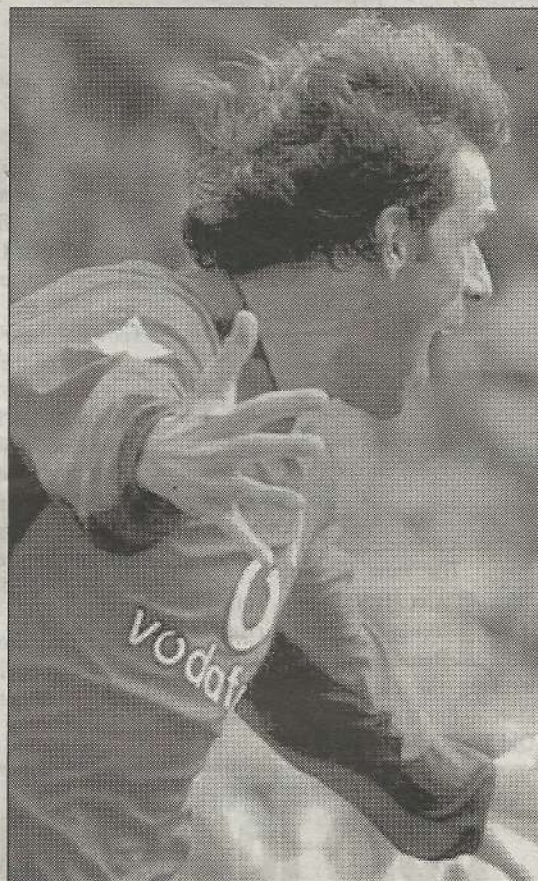
Bradford 0 Gillingham 1, Burnley 0 Wigan 2, Derby 2 Reading 3, Ipswich 1 Coventry 1, Millwall 1 Crewe 1, Notts. Forest 1 Cardiff 2, Preston 0 Sutherland 2, Rotherham 1 West Ham 0, Sheff Utd 1 Norwich 0, Walsall 1 Stoke 1, Watford 0 West Brom 1, Wimbledon 1 Crystal Palace 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Reading	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Stoke	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Millwall	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
West Brom	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Walsall	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Sheff Utd	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
Gillingham	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
Norwich	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Bradford	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Wigan	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
West Ham	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Crewe	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Cardiff	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Rotherham	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Wimbledon	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Sunderland	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Coventry	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Ipswich	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Preston	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Derby	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Watford	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Burnley	3	0	0	3	3	9	0

SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley 1 Brighton 0, Bristol City 1 Hartlepool 1, Luton 1 Grimsby 2, Oldham 2 Blackpool 3, Peterborough 0 Sheff Wed 1, Plymouth 3 Stockport 1, Port Vale 4 Colchester 3, QPR 1 Bournemouth 0, Swindon 4 Notts County 0, Tranmere 1 Rushden & Diamonds 2, Wrexham 1 Brentford 0, Wycombe 3 Chesterfield 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Vale	3	3	0	0	8	5	9
Sheff Wed	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Barnsley	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Wrexham	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
QPR	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Swindon	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Luton	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Brighton	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Rushden & D'monds	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
Blackpool	3	2	0	1	6	9	6
Bristol City	3	1	2	0	7	2	5
Hartlepool	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Tranmere	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Plymouth	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Wycombe	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Grimsby	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Peterborough	3	1	0	2	6	5	3
Chesterfield	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Bournemouth	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Oldham	3	0	1	2	5	8	1
Colchester	3	0	0	3	3	6	0
Stockport	3	0	0	3	2	6	0
Brentford	3	0	0	3	1	8	0



Manchester United FC's Ruud van Nistelrooy celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Newcastle United FC.

Arsenal are on top of the Premiership following a stunning 4-0 victory over Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium.

Szilard Nemeth had a great chance to open the scoring for the hosts in the first minute but fired over, and Arsenal took just four more minutes to break the deadlock.

Thierry Henry was the goalscorer, with Gilberto and Sylvain Wiltord (2) rounding out a miserable day for 'Boro.

Manchester United had Sir Alex Ferguson sent off but still roared back to beat Newcastle United 2-1 in the match of the round at St James' Park.

Ferguson was banished by referee Uriah Rennie on 23 minutes after disputing a controversial decision, and when Alan Shearer put the

home side ahead three minutes later things looked bleak for the champions.

But after the break the visitors roared back in great style with Roy Keane setting up goals for Ruud van Nistelrooy (51) and Paul Scholes (59).

Chelsea's first home match under the ownership of Roman Abramovich saw the big-spending Londoners record a 2-1 win over Leicester City.

It looked like being a long afternoon for City when Lilian Nalis put through his own goal in the third minute but a James Scowcroft header levelled the scores with five minutes of the half remaining.

Chelsea's latest signing Adrian Mutu marked his debut with the winning goal from a thundering 20-yard drive on the stroke of half-time.

Wolverhampton learnt another harsh lesson of life in the Premiership as their first home game in the top flight since 1984 ended in a 4-0 thrashing by Charlton.

After their 5-1 hammering at Blackburn in their season opener, Wolves needed a good start but suffered a blow after five minutes when Jason Euell put Charlton one up.

Further first half goals to Claus Jensen and a double to Shaun Bartlett sealed an almost faultless display by the visitors, tarnished only by the sending off of Scott Parker.

Everton strolled to a comfortable 3-1 win over Fulham at Goodison Park, Gary Naysmith drilling home the opener before David Unsworth's 20th-minute strike gave the home side a comfortable cushion.

Steve Watson made it three from close range after 35 minutes and Everton hung on despite Barry Hayles' second-half consolation.

Manchester City's first

Premiership game in their new City of Manchester Stadium ended in a 1-1 with Portsmouth.

Yakubu Ayegbini scored for the visitors after 24 minutes when he prodded past David Seaman from close range but David Sommeil levelled in the last minute.

Frederic Kanoute scored on his Tottenham debut as his new side fought from behind to beat Leeds 2-1. Alan Smith had given the visitors the lead before

Mauricio Taricco levelled on half-time.

Bolton suffered last-minute heartache against north-west rivals Blackburn as they threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at the Reebok Stadium while the match between Southampton and Birmingham finished goalless.

Finally Liverpool and Aston Villa remain without a win this season following an entertaining 0-0 draw at Villa Park.



Arsenal striker Thierry Henry celebrates his second goal of the season with captain Patrick Vieira.

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Fergie may extend contract

MANCHESTER United chief executive Peter Kenyon hinted that manager Alex Ferguson may extend his contract.



Sir Alex Ferguson could extend his stay further at Man U.

Ferguson signed a new three-year deal in February 2002 after changing his mind about retiring and Kenyon believes that he may commit himself beyond 2005.

"There is nothing to suggest that Alex will not be here longer than his current contract," Kenyon told Manchester United TV (MUTV). "He knows what is required, we know what is required."

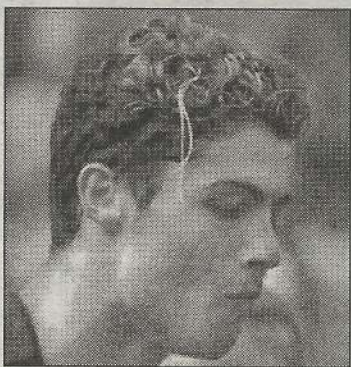
Kenyon believes that despite his 61 years Ferguson is still hungry for success.

"I don't think it is anything to do with age. His ability and his record speaks for themselves and anybody who knows him will see there is a younger, fitter Sir Alex Ferguson this season than there was last."

"He says he is enjoying his football more than ever now and that is a fact."

"I think the rest of football have every right to be worried," added Kenyon.

Teenage Ronaldo in seventh heaven



The 'new' Ronaldo!

MANCHESTER United's teenage striker Cristiano Ronaldo is delighted to be wearing the club's number seven shirt — but not because of its part in Old Trafford folklore.

David Beckham was the last player to wear it, with George Best, Bryan Robson and Eric Cantona among previous United number sevens.

But while the 18-year-old Ronaldo acknowledges the mystique of his new squad number, the reason for his happiness is closer to home.

"Everyone has been telling me about George Best, Bryan Robson and Eric Cantona, and it does fill me with pride to be following in their footsteps," he told United's website.

"The number seven shirt has a great tradition at United and anyone would be proud to wear it."

But there is more to it than people in England may realise. For me it is extra special because it is also Luis Figo's number.

"When I was growing up in Portugal, Figo wore the seven of Sporting Lisbon. Like any kid with dreams of being a footballer, I wanted to be Figo. I wanted to wear the number seven."

Ronaldo made an instant impact at United following his STG12.25 million (\$A29.72 million) transfer from Sporting Lisbon.

Arriving as a substitute in the opening premier league match of the season against Bolton he inspired United to a 4-0 victory.

"It looks like the fans have a new hero," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "It was a marvellous debut, almost unbelievable. I felt his penetration could make a difference for us. We have to be careful with the boy. You must remember he is only 18."

Makalele 'jeopardises future'



Claude Makelele: His dispute with Real Madrid continues.

"The club will be uncompromising. What Makelele has done is a serious act of indiscipline and I hope that it will be considered as such as well by the club's legal service," Valdano told Marca radio.

"Gradually as he misses his obligations the penalty will increase," threatened Valdano.

And he insisted that Makelele will not wear the jersey of a club other than Real Madrid.

"He has an ongoing contract and as such can only wear the Real jersey. We are not planning that he changes team," added Valdano.

Makelele is said to be unhappy with what he rates as his low wages compared to the salaries of the club's high-profile stars like Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Raul, and was trying to force a move to English Premiership big-spenders Chelsea, who have since distanced themselves from a deal.

And Makelele told sports daily Marca he is confident that something can be arranged.

"Everything is going to be sorted out. Something very important and very good for everyone is going to happen shortly," added the Congo-born player.

France manager Jacques Santini is keen to find a diplomatic solution.

"Today, we're still mulling it over. We'll go as far as we can to reconcile the interests of both club and country," he said.

Gazza to play for Al Jazira

FORMER England midfielder Paul Gascoigne will play for Al Jazira in the United Arab Emirates later this year, the club announced.

The 36-year-old replaces Liberian international George Weah who has left the Abu Dhabi-based club after two seasons to settle with his family in the US.

"I am thrilled," Gascoigne was quoted as saying in a club statement. "I have visited the UAE on many occasions and it is a wonderful country where people love their football. It is also a great place for kids to live."

"Gazza" will join Colombia forward Elson Becerra as the two foreigners replacing Weah and Liberian team-mate James Debbah in the season starting next month.



Gazza will travel to the Middle East and play for UAE's Al Jazira this season.

Boro loan deal for Mendieta



Gaizka Mendieta: Middlesbrough have snapped up the Spanish international.

MIDDLESBROUGH have signed Lazio's Spanish international, Gaizka Mendieta, on a one-year loan, the Italian club confirmed.

Middlesbrough have been given an option to buy the 29-year-old at the end of the 12 month period. No financial details of the deal were released.

Mendieta made his name as an industrious central midfielder whose surging runs helped take Valencia to successive Champions League finals in 2000 and 2001.

He then joined Lazio for 36 million euros (\$40m) as a replacement for Juan Sebastian Veron after the latter joined Manchester United, but failed to hold down a regular place and spent last season on loan at Barcelona.

On his return from Spain, Mendieta had hoped to stay and establish himself in the first team, but coach Roberto Mancini made his feelings clear by not registering him for the club's Champions League campaign.

Much ADU About Many Things

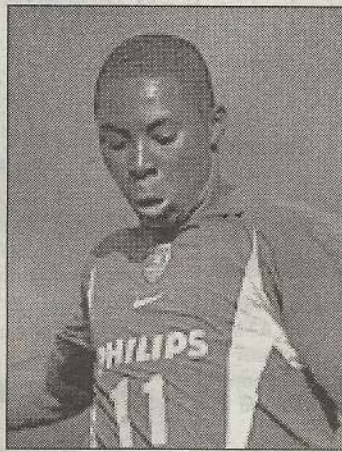
The scramble to sign 14-year-old U.S. striker Freddy Adu has officially begun.

The youngest player at FIFA's Under-17 World Championship in Finland is also the tournament's top scorer, with four goals in two games.

Adu has his sights set on eventually playing in Europe but has not ruled out first joining Major League Soccer, according to Sports Illustrated's Grant Wahl, who says MLS deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis flew to Finland last Saturday to speak face-to-face with Adu's mother, Emelia.

English powerhouse Manchester United and Italian giants AC and Inter Milan have also opened talks to sign Adu, according to a Sunday report in English newspaper the Guardian.

A FIFA rule limits the ability of players under age 18 to move abroad, but it remains open to interpretation.



Freddy Adu: The next big thing.

Coach Ellinger was pleased with his strike tandem of Watson and Adu.

"It's been a big plus for us in the last two months," he said. "Jamie has not been a regular starter, but in the early

part of June we started playing with Freddy underneath of Jamie, and the combination play of those two have really given us a boost."

"If I had to classify Jamie as a player, I'd call him a pest. He'll just work, work and work. He'll create opportunities for us just by the ability to put pressure on."

"We can play any kind of ball into him and he can hold it. He's also good at laying balls off first time. His play has been a tremendous boost for us and playing Freddy underneath has worked wonders for us as of late."

"That's the beauty of Freddy," Ellinger said. "That's why you leave a Freddy Adu or Landon Donovan in a game because [defenders] can deal with him for 89 minutes, but then it's that one minute, that one moment in a game when they can explode on you. That's why Freddy is in there."

BALLACK SLAMS KAHN

Injured Germany midfielder Michael Ballack led a chorus of criticism against goalkeeper Oliver Kahn for attacking teammates who refuse to play for the national team when they are injured.

Kahn questioned their attitude before Germany's friendly against Italy on Wednesday, suggesting South Americans were more devoted to their national sides.

"It's just nonsense," Ballack, also a team mate of Kahn's at Bayern Munich, said on Wednesday. "There are withdrawals (due to injuries) at every international match."

"He gets all worked up about everyone who can't make it and yet he wasn't there with us in Bremen in the match against Serbia and Montenegro (in April)," said Ballack, one of eight Germans not playing against Italy

because of injury.

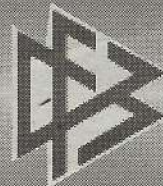
"He has no idea how severely injured players really are. If he's got a certain player in mind he should name names."

Kahn had criticised his team mates for being soft at a news conference on Tuesday.

"We can't have a situation when players stay home just because the little toe in their left foot hurts," he said.



German Bundesliga



Werder Bremen moved to the top of the Bundesliga following a comfortable 4-1 victory at home to Schalke at the Weserstadion.

A 1-0 defeat for Borussia Dortmund at Cologne and a similar reverse for Bayer Leverkusen at Bochum left Bremen sitting pretty.

Not that Werder will mind at all after a professional performance helped them remain unbeaten after four matches.

The game was all but wrapped up by half-time as Thomas Schaaf's side scored three goals in the opening period, the first of which came from Greek international Angelos Charisteas on 12 minutes.

Tim Borowski and Ailton were also on target - the Brazilian has now scored in three of Bremen's four games.

Nelson Haedo Valdez added the fourth before Victor Agali hit a late consolation for Schalke.

Dortmund's title hopes took an early knock against a Cologne side that went into the match without a point.

Skipper Dirk Lottner was the hero, hitting the winner 12 minutes into the second half at the Mungersdorfer Stadion.

Bayer Leverkusen's record-breaking start to the season ran aground when Tomasz Zdebel grabbed the only goal of the game after 64 minutes for Bochum.

Reigning champions Bayern Munich joined Werder Bremen at the top of the Bundesliga with a 2-0 success over Hamburg.

Claudio Pizarro and Giovane Elber scored on either side of half-time for the Bavarian giants.

Last season's runners-up Stuttgart edged home courtesy of two early goals against struggling Kaiserslautern.

Jeronimo Baretto Cacau set the ball rolling for the hosts after eight minutes, and that lead was doubled six minutes later by Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Soldo. Stuttgart are sitting in third and yet to concede a goal this season.

A solitary goal from Danny Schwarz handed the points to 1860 Munich in a stormy match in which the Lions finished with 10 men and Wolfsburg with nine.

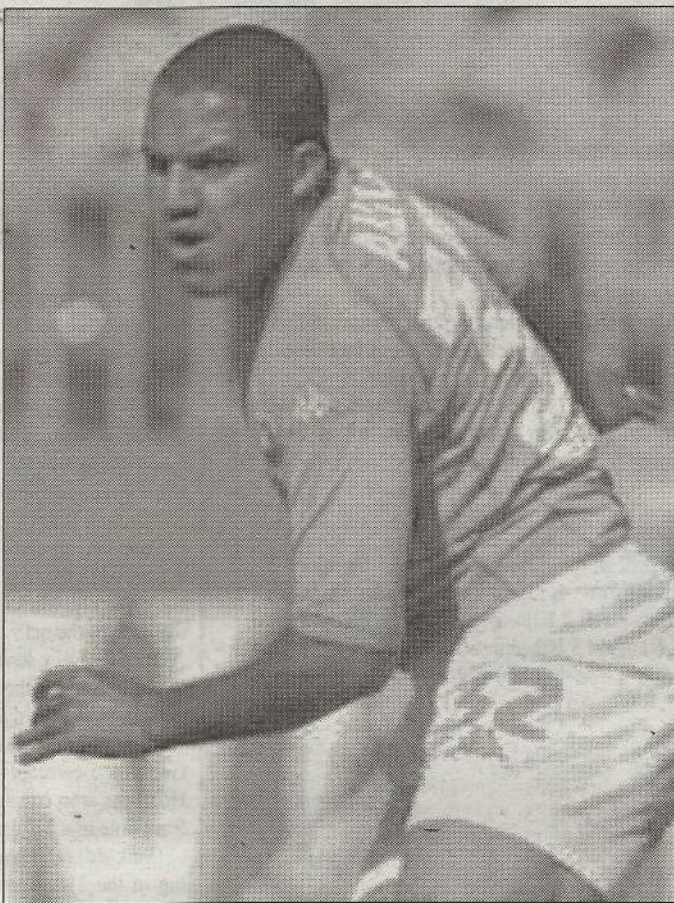
Wolfsburg's big summer signing, playmaker Andres D'Alessandro, was dis-

missed for two yellow cards before half-time while Maik Franz went for a professional foul on Daniel Borimirov - who was red carded for retaliation to the challenge and sparking a 22-man brawl.

Eintracht Frankfurt picked up their first point of

the season in a goalless draw with Hertha Berlin while newly-promoted Freiburg were full value for their first win since returning to the top flight as they thrashed Borussia Monchengladbach 4-1.

Goals from Bosnian player Zlatan Bajramovic (2), Andreas Zeyer and Alexander Iashvili were more than enough with Arie van Lent netting for the visitors.



SV Werder Bremen's Ailton scores against FC Schalke

Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Hertha Berlin 0, Freiburg 4 Borussia Monchengladbach 1, VfB Stuttgart 2 Kaiserslautern 0, Werder Bremen 4 Schalke 1, Cologne 1 Borussia Dortmund 0, 1860 Munich 1 VfL Wolfsburg 0, VfL Bochum 1 Bayer Leverkusen 0, Hamburg 0 Bayern Munich 2, (Hanover 96 vs Hansa Rostock - Thursday AET).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bremen	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
Bayern	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
Stuttgart	4	3	1	0	5	0	10
Leverkusen	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
Dortmund	4	2	1	1	9	4	7
1860 München	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Wolfsburg	4	2	0	2	8	8	6
Freiburg	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Schalke	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
Hansa	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Hannover	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Bochum	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Mönchengladbach	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Köln	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Hertha	4	0	3	1	0	3	3
Eintracht	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
Hamburg	4	0	1	3	2	11	1
Kaiserslautern	4	1	0	3	2	5	0

FIXTURES

13th September 2003

Wolfsburg	v	B.Munich
Kaiserslautern	v	Freiburg
M'gladbach	v	E.Frankfurt
Hertha Berlin	v	Hannover
Hansa Rostock	v	Bochum
B.Leverkusen	v	Hamburg SV
1860 Munich	v	FC Cologne
B.Dortmund	v	Werder Bremen
Schalke	v	VfB Stuttgart



Dutch Eredivisie



RKC Waalwijk sit on top of the Dutch Eredivisie table after starting their away campaign with an emphatic 3-0 victory against Zwolle at the Oosterenkstadion.

Two goals in four minutes from striker Iwan Redan midway through the first half laid the foundations for the victory, which also condemns Zwolle to a second defeat from their opening games.

RKC hung on in the second half and completed the victory with a stunning strike from Zeljko Petrovic in stoppage time.

Champions PSV Eindhoven recorded their first win of the season by hitting Willem II Tilburg for six as they eased to a 6-1 victory.

Ajax Amsterdam sealed their second narrow win of the season, 1-0 at RBC Roosendaal, while fellow title contenders Feyenoord lost 1-0 at Heerenveen.

Ajax are top with six points from two matches, level with Heerenveen, with PSV third on four. Feyenoord are ninth with three points.

Fullback Andre Ooijer opened the scoring for PSV after 10 minutes, but eight minutes later Tarik Sektioui equalised.

PSV's Dennis Rommedahl, Mark van Bommel and Mateja Kezman settled the match before the break. Yugoslav international Kezman scored his second shortly after halftime and South Korean Park Ji-Sung completed the rout.

Tom Soetaers celebrated his debut for Ajax with a goal 10 minutes before halftime against RBC Roosendaal, setting up Ronald Koeman's side for

next week's Champions League qualifier against Austria's Graz AK.

Feyenoord dropped their first points this season as Gerald Sibon scored the only goal for Heerenveen on 19 minutes.

NAC recovered from last week's defeat to beat Vitesse Arnhem 2-0 thanks to goals by Ronnie Stam and Tamas Peto.

FC Utrecht were denied their second successive win of the season by a late equaliser from newly-promoted ADO Den Haag.

Groningen.

Two goals in the first 20 minutes of the match from Eddy Putter and Maurice Buys, the latter a penalty, set Volendam on their way and Dion Esajas wrapped things up 11 minutes into the second half.

Roda JC continued their excellent start to the season with a convincing 3-1 win at Nijmegen. Cristiano Dos Santos gave them a 1-0 interval lead before Yannis Anastasiou and Cristiano again were on the mark after the interval for the visitors.



Mateja Kezman: Scored two goals against Willem II.

The home side looked headed for a second consecutive one-goal defeat before Marcel Pronk popped up four minutes from time to net the leveller.

Utrecht had earlier taken the lead through Donny de Groot's 20th-minute strike.

AZ Alkmaar got their first win of the season with a convincing 3-0 home win over FC Twente Enschede. Twente entered the game top of the ladder but the hosts prevailed with goals from Jan Kromkamp, Robin Nelisse and Ali Elkhatabi.

Volendam kick-started their season in emphatic style with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over

ADO Den Haag 1 Utrecht 1, AZ Alkmaar 3 Twente Enschede 0, Heerenveen 1 Feyenoord 0, NAC Breda 2 Vitesse Arnhem 0, PSV Eindhoven 6 Willem II Tilburg 1, RBC Roosendaal 0 Ajax Amsterdam 1, Volendam 3 Groningen 0, Zwolle 0 RKC Waalwijk 3, NEC Nijmegen 1 Roda JC 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waalwijk	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Ajax	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Heerenveen	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
PSV	2	1	1	0	8	3	4
Roda	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Utrecht	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Alkmaar	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Volendam	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
NAC	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Feyenoord	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Twente	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Groningen	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Willem II	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
Den Haag	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
NEC	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Roosendaal	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Vitesse	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Zwolle	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

FIXTURES

Friday 29th August

Willem II	v	SC Heerenveen
Vitesse	v	AZ

Saturday 30th August

Roda JC	v	RBC Roosendaal
FC Twente	v	PSV

Sunday 31st August

Feyenoord	v	NAC Breda
Ajax	v	FC Zwolle
FC Groningen	v	ADO Den Haag
FC Utrecht	v	NEC
RKC Waalwijk	v	FC Volendam



Scottish Premier League

Rangers came back from behind twice to down Hibernian with three goals in the final 30 minutes to maintain their perfect league record with a thrilling 5-2 win.

The final scoreline will be painful to the visitors, for whom Tom McManus missed a decisive penalty with the score at 2-2.

For an hour Rangers were rocking but keeper Stefan Klos' save enabled man-of-the-match Michael Mols to give his side a lead they went on to extend through a Mikel Arteta free kick and a late strike from substitute Chris Burke.

It had been all square at the break as Ian Murray and then McManus put Hibs ahead on two occasions only to be pegged back by Mols' first and an own goal.

The win kept Rangers two points clear of Celtic, who secured a 2-1 win at Partick thanks to an Alan Thompson penalty.

Paul Lambert had opened the scoring for the Parkhead side early in the game but Thistle drew level through James Grady.

But it was Celtic who claimed the win when Ian Ross collided with Stilian Petrov in the area and Thompson converted from the penalty spot.

Hearts strolled to a comfortable 3-0 win over Dundee United at Tynecastle.

Phil Stamp opened the scoring in the 21st minute before Mark Wilson put through his own net 60 seconds later. Hearts striker Mark de Vries completed the scoring 11 minutes before the break.

A goal in each half by striker Nacho Novo gave Dundee a 2-1 win against Livingston at Dens Park.

The Spaniard had given the home side the lead in the 17th minute when he volleyed a tremendous shot past Alan Main and high into the net before Livingston midfielder Burton O'Brien flicked a Barry Wilson pass over Julian Speroni to level in the 37th minute.

But, six minutes from time, Fabian Caballero was felled by Oscar Rubio in the penalty area and Novo

slammed the spot-kick home.

A stunning header from Stephen Pearson in the 90th minute gave Motherwell a 2-1 win after Kilmarnock looked certain to steal a point from Fir Park.

James McFadden had given the home side a 66th-minute lead from the penalty spot but Killie defender Freddie Dindeleux looked to have salvaged a point for the Ayrshire club 10 minutes later before Pearson clinched the points in the dying moments.

Dunfermline beat Aberdeen at Pittodrie for the first time in six years after scoring once in each half to see off a poor Dons side.

Aberdeen took the lead through Australian David Zdrilic but were pegged back before half-time by Craig Brewster's header.

The veteran striker then combined well with Barry Nicholson in the 56th minute to set up the winner.

Aberdeen 1 Dunfermline 2, Dundee 2 Livingston 1, Hearts 3 Dundee Utd 0, Motherwell 2 Kilmarnock 1, Partick 1 Celtic 2, Rangers 5 Hibernian 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	3	3	0	0	12	4	9
Celtic	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Dunfermline	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Hearts	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
Dundee	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Hibernian	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Livingston	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Motherwell	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Kilmarnock	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Partick	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Aberdeen	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Dundee Utd	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

Belgian First Division

Anderlecht, last season's Belgian league runners-up, sit top of the Belgian first division ladder after winning 3-0 at home as arch-rivals and current champions Club Bruges were held to a draw.

Anderlecht trounced St Truiden to continue their best start to a season for years while Bruges drew 3-3 at home to La Louviere.

Anderlecht's Ivorian striker Aruna Dindane hit the back of the net in the 60th minute after a pass from Ivica Mornar, who also set up the next two goals.

Par Zetterberg, the team's 32-year-old Swedish midfielder, scored 11 minutes later before midfielder Walter Basaggio sealed the victory in the 81st minute after another pass from Mornar and a lucky bounce off St Truiden defender Claude Kalisa.

Bruges began well when striker Sandy Martens found the net in the 18th minute but La Louviere equalised eight minutes later through Nigerian striker Manaseh Ishiaku.

Peruvian forward Andres Mendoza put Bruges 2-1 ahead in the 61st minute, but Louviere again hit back quickly, Mickael Murcy driving the ball into the back of the net.

Striker Murcy scored a second in the 90th minute to give Louviere the lead but Mendoza coolly levelled in the last minute of injury time.

Racing Genk's hopes of an easy away win at Germinal Beerschot were dashed by defender Carl Hoefkens who equalised for the hosts two minutes from time in a 2-2 draw.

Genk striker Cedric Roussel had opened the scoring in the 11th minute after a pass from Bosnian Mirsad Beslija however minutes before the break teammate Gambian Soley Seyfo was sent off for a heavy tackle on Philip Haagdoren.

Unperturbed, midfielder Bernd Thijs consolidated the lead six minutes into the second half.

Germinal finally found the net with a powerful

shot from 20-year-old striker Kristof Snelders, before Hoefkens brought honours even.

Charleroi, desperate for a win against Cercle Bruges to move off bottom place in the league, played out a lacklustre goalless draw but at least earned a point and stand second from bottom on goal difference.

In other league matches, Excelsior Mouscron drew 1-1 at home to Lierse, Standard Liege hammered Mons-Bergen 4-0, Westerlo drew 2-2 to Ghent and lowly Beveren edged Lokeren 2-1.

Excelsior Mouscron 1 Lierse 1, Westerlo 2 Ghent 2, Club Bruges 3 La Louviere 3, Standard Liege 4 Mons-Bergen 0, Lokeren 1 Beveren 2, Anderlecht 3 St Truiden 0, Heusden-Zolder 0 Royal Antwerp 0, Charleroi 0 Cercle Bruges 0, Germinal Beerschot 2 Racing Genk 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Standard	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Club Brugge	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
La Louviere	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
G Beerschot	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Lierse	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Genk	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
AA Gent	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Sint-Truiden	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Antwerp	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Beveren	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Mouscron	3	0	3	0	6	6	3
Westerlo	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Cercle Brugge	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Heusden	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Lokeren	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Charleroi	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Mons	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

French Ligue 1

Lille conceded their first goal of the season in a 1-1 home draw with promoted Metz but still kept their first place in the French Ligue 1.

The Northerners were just five minutes short of the French record for the longest start without conceding a goal in the top flight which stands at 275 minutes.

But they were caught off-guard as early as the second minute when Pape Thiaw opened the scoring for Metz and goalkeeper Gregory Wibbe had to be content with 272 minutes.

Bordeaux 2 AJ Auxerre 0, Marseille 2 Sochaux 0, Bastia 1 Montpellier 0, Lille 1 Metz 1, Lyon 0 Toulouse 0, Nantes 1 Le Mans 0, Nice 2 AC Ajaccio 2, Stade Rennes 0 En Avant Guingamp 0, Racing Strasbourg 0 RC Lens 1, Paris St Germain 2 Monaco 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lille	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
Monaco	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
Nantes	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Marseille	4	3	0	1	5	2	9
Nice	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Lyon	4	2	1	1	5	2	7
Ajaccio	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
Lens	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
Bordeaux	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Rennes	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Strasbourg	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Metz	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
PSG	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Sochaux	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Montpellier	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Bastia	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
Auxerre	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Mans	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Toulouse	4	0	2	2	1	5	2
Guingamp	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

Lille kept fighting and, after having a Jean Makoun goal disallowed, finally equalised two minutes into the second half when Bulgarian Vladimir Manchev scored his third goal this season.

Second-half goals from Sebastien Squillaci and Ludovic Giuly finally settled an exciting game in Monaco's favour as they added to Paris St Germain's troubles with a 4-2 success at the Parc des Princes.

Pauleta had given the home side an early lead but goals in quick succession from Giuly and Manuel Adebayor put Monaco in charge before half-time.

Reinaldo equalised after the break but Squillaci soon struck to put Monaco back ahead. The visitors' task was made easier after the late dismissal of Modeste M'Bami and Giuly wrapped things up in the final minute.

Nantes moved into third place with a 1-0 win against promoted Le Mans, Gabon's Shiva Nzibou scoring the Canaries' goal in the 78th minute.

Marseille moved into fourth after a 2-0 victory over Sochaux. The home team dominated from the start and were rewarded when Didier Drogba volleyed home from a perfect cross by Czech Segan Vachousek in the 35th minute.

Drogba later hit the woodwork but the second goal came five minutes from the final whistle with a penalty taken by midfielder Brahim Hemdani.

Nice and their leading scorer Lilian Laslandes have only themselves to blame for allowing Ajaccio to earn a 2-2 draw.

Laslandes scored his team's two goals, but also one of two own goals for Ajaccio, the second being the fault of defender Noe Pamarot.

Champions Olympique Lyon were below par in a goalless draw with promoted Toulouse.

Albert Celades inspired Bordeaux to a 2-0 victory over Auxerre, who suffered their third defeat in four matches this season.

Title favourites Auxerre conceded first-half goals to Brazilian Divid and Argentine Mauricio Pochettino, as Celades, signed from Real Madrid this week, ran the show.

Greek Ethniki Katigoria

Reigning champions Olympiakos made the perfect start to the defence of their Hellenic National League title by defeating PAOK Thessaloniki 2-0 on the first weekend of the season.

Giorgos Georgiadis gave his team a deserved lead in the 18th minute after a cross from Predrag Djordjevic and 11 minutes later another former PAOK player, Pantelis Kafes, headed the second following a free-kick from Panagiotis Gonias.

AEK Athens secured all three points at Aegaleo with a 1-0 victory, sourced only by an injury to defender Michalis Kassapis.

The only goal of the game came in the 19th minute when Yiannakis Okkas fired home Grigoris Georgatos' pass, holding off Aegaleo defender

Kostas Papoutsis in the process.

It was a tight game in front of a 5,000-strong crowd as the visitors struggled to stamp their authority on proceedings.

The main concern for AEK will be the fitness of defender Michalis Kassapis who was injured during the first half and is a doubt for Wednesday's Champions League third qualifying round, second-leg clash against Grasshoppers.

Panathinaikos, meanwhile, edged out Xanthi 1-0 in a more closely contested encounter.

The match looked to be heading for a goalless draw until Pantelis Konstantinidis broke the deadlock from close range with six minutes left on the clock.

Iraklis looked in fine fettle as they cruised to a 4-0 defeat of OFI Crete, although the task was made easier by Thanassis Kolitsidakis' dismissal in the 18th minute. The home side struck first in the 58th minute through Nikos Machlas, then Kostas Kiassos, Edwin Muratti and Marcin Mieczel all weighed in.

Panionios were made to work hard for their 3-2 defeat of newly-promoted Paniliakos despite establishing a 2-0 lead thanks to two goals from Cristian Pino. The visitors fought back, however, and Kostas Spiropoulos and Carlos Marcora levelled proceedings before Christos Kontis converted the winner.

Elsewhere, Akraitos FC snatched a 1-0 victory against Aris Thessaloniki courtesy of a 68th-minute strike from Stathis Stefanidis, Ionikis overcame Kallithea 3-2 while Proodeftiki and Halkidona fought out a 1-1 draw.



Olympiakos players celebrates their 2-0 victory over rival PAOK Salonika last weekend.



WORLD



International Friendly Results

England3	Croatia1	China0	Chile0
Norway0	Scotland0	Japan3	Nigeria0
Germany0	Italy1	Argentina3	Uruguay2
Liechtenstein ...2	San Marino ...2	Denmark1	Finland1
Latvia0	Uzbekistan3	Bulgaria3	Lithuania0
Turkey2	Moldova0	Belgium1	Netherlands ...1
Belarus2	Iran1	Sweden1	Greece2
Ukraine0	Romania2	Austria2	Costa Rica0
Macedonia3	Albania1	Switzerland ...0	France2
Slovenia2	Hungary1	Tunisia0	Guinea0
Russia1	Israel2	Estonia1	Poland2

Fiorentina catapulted back into Serie B

Italian football authorities voted to expand Serie B by four teams, including twice-Serie A champions Fiorentina, in an effort to end a relegation battle that has raged all summer in the courts.

The unprecedented decision, taken just 11 days before the start of the new season, was made at a stormy meeting of Italy's soccer federation, which has come under heavy political pressure to sort out the mess.

The move means that four teams slated to play in the third division - Catania, Genoa, Salernitana and Fiorentina - will instead join the more lucrative second flight.

While the lucky quartet were delighted with the vote, other clubs denounced it as a travesty of justice and threatened to boycott the start of the forthcoming season.

"There is a risk that on August 31, teams will not take to the pitch," said Antonio Matarrese, vice-chairman of the football league - the body that represents the clubs.

On a day of high drama, the most controversial move was the promotion of Fiorentina, a former stalwart of Serie A that went bankrupt last year and was thrown to the bottom of the professional football pile.

Last season the Florence club won promotion from Serie C2, but will now leapfrog Serie C1 and head straight to Serie B.

"The team can bring a significant increase in interest for the entire (second) division," said soccer federation chief Franco Carraro, explaining the contested move.

"It's a club with a big fan base, structure and is attractive for television."

The row was sparked by Sicilian club Catania, which broke a soccer taboo by turning to the law courts in the closed season to get its relegation overturned because of a technicality tied to one of their games earlier this year.

The court duly obliged, encouraging other clubs to leap on the legal bandwagon and try to get their sporting woes resolved by judges rather than internal soccer tribunals.

Soccer federation chiefs said the only way out of the impasse was to expand Serie B, but a number of clubs feel seriously aggrieved - especially Cosenza which was one of four teams originally relegated last season from the second division.

While Catania, Genoa and Salernitana now avoid the drop, the decision to promote Fiorentina has left Cosenza out in the cold.

"This is a massive injustice for a club that has always respected football and respected the rules," said Cosenza chairman Giuseppe Mazzotta.

Their last chance of salvation lies with Italy's Olympic Committee (CONI), the nation's sporting watchdog that has the final say in all major sporting decisions. It is expected to meet later this week to discuss the issue.

The row has split over into politics, with parliamentarians from towns and cities caught up in the furor pushing heavily behind the scenes to save their teams from relegation.



FIFA Women's World Ranking

1	USA (USA)	2169	1	0	31	Poland (POL)	1672	30	-1
2	Norway (NOR)	2159	2	0	32	Mexico (MEX)	1671	33	+1
3	Germany (GER)	2152	3	0	33	Portugal (POR)	1666	31	-2
4	China PR (CHN)	2110	4	0	34	Romania (ROM)	1650	34	0
5	Sweden (SWE)	2073	5	0	35	Argentina (ARG)	1624	38	+3
6	Brazil (BRA)	2036	6	0	36	Slovakia (SVK)	1618	35	-1
7	Korea DPR (PRK)	2004	7	0	37	Colombia (COL)	1615	-	-
8	Denmark (DEN)	1967	8	0	38	Ireland Republic (IRL)	1613	36	-2
9	France (FRA)	1963	9	0	39	Peru (PER)	1603	37	-2
10	Italy (ITA)	1943	10	0	40	Trinidad and Tobago (TRI)	1595	39	-1
11	Russia (RUS)	1899	11	0	41	Thailand (THA)	1587	40	-1
12	Canada (CAN)	1867	14	+2	42	Belarus (BLR)	1579	41	-1
13	England (ENG)	1860	12	-1	43	Vietnam SR (VIE)	1569	43	0
14	Japan (JPN)	1850	13	-1	44	Croatia (CRO)	1568	42	-2
15	Australia (AUS)	1839	16	+1	45	Costa Rica (CRC)	1550	44	-1
16	Netherlands (NED)	1814	15	-1	46	Myanmar (MYA)	1537	48	+2
17	Iceland (ISL)	1782	18	+1	47	Bulgaria (BUL)	1530	45	-2
18	Ukraine (UKR)	1779	17	-1	48	Austria (AUT)	1522	47	-1
19	Spain (ESP)	1767	22	+3	49	Uzbekistan (UZB)	1505	46	-3
20	Finland (FIN)	1761	20	0	50	Chile (CHI)	1487	-	-
21	New Zealand (NZL)	1759	21	0	51	Ecuador (ECU)	1472	-	-
22	Chinese Taipei (TPE)	1746	19	-3	52	Morocco (MAR)	1461	49	-3
23	Nigeria (NGA)	1738	23	0	53	Ghana (GHA)	1458	50	-3
24	Czech Republic (CZE)	1737	24	0	54	Haiti (HAI)	1457	51	-3
25	Korea Republic (KOR)	1727	28	+3	55	Wales (WAL)	1441	52	-3
26	Hungary (HUN)	1723	25	-1	56	India (IND)	1436	53	-3
27	Belgium (BEL)	1718	27	0	57	Greece (GRE)	1426	54	-3
28	Serbia and Montenegro (YUG)	1713	26	-2	58	Indonesia (IDN)	1415	55	-3
29	Switzerland (SUI)	1704	29	0	59	Papua New Guinea (PNG)	1411	-	-
30	Scotland (SCO)	1691	32	+2	60	Kazakhstan (KAZ)	1404	56	-4



FIFA WORLD RANKING

1	Brazil	834	1	0	1	0	51	Wales	558	50	-1	52	1
2	France	814	2	0	2	0	52	Côte d'Ivoire	555	59	7	64	12
3	Spain	762	2	-1	3	0	53	New Zealand	550	51	-2	49	-4
4	Argentina	754	5	1	5	1	54	Trinidad and Tobago	549	52	-2	47	-7
5	Netherlands	752	6	1	6	1	55	Slovakia	544	53	-2	55	0
6	Germany	745	4	-2	4	-2	56	Venezuela	544	63	8	69	14
7	Turkey	733	8	1	9	2	57	Austria	544	61	6	54	-1
8	England	727	7	-1	7	-1	58	Congo DR	541	65	7	65	7
9	United States	717	10	1	10	1	59	Iceland	538	70	11	58	-1
10	Czech Republic	712	13	3	15	5	60	Scotland	538	64	5	58	-1
11	Italy	711	12	1	13	2	61	Zimbabwe	536	55	-6	56	-5
12	Mexico	711	9	-2	8	-3	62	Estonia	534	61	-1	60	-2
13	Denmark	710	10	-3	12	-1	63	Cuba	532	56	-7	71	8
14	Ireland Republic	703	15	1	14	0	64	Iraq	531	56	-8	53	-11
15	Portugal	692	14	-1	11	-4	65	Thailand	529	59	-6	66	1
16	Cameroon	691	18	2	16	0	66	Guatemala	529	58	-7	78	13
17	Belgium	672	16	-1	17	0	67	Zambia	526	69	2	66	-1
18	Costa Rica	663	17	-1	21	3	68	Algeria	522	66	-2	68	0
19	Sweden	663	20	2	24	6	69	Ghana	513	67	-2	60	-9
20	Paraguay	657	19	-1	18	-2	70	Chile	510	73	3	84	14
21	Romania	652	27	6	24	3	71	China PR	510	68	-2	63	-7
22	Colombia	651	39	17	37	15	72	Burkina Faso	508	83	11	75	3
23	Norway	648	24	1	26	3	73	Mali	505	74	1	73	0
24	Japan	643	23	-1	22	-2	74	Qatar	499	71	-3	62	-12
25	Korea Republic	643	21	-3	20	-4	75	Bosnia-Herzegovina	495	72	-3	87	12
26	Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76	Kenya	493	78	2	80	4
27	Serbia and Montenegro	636	22	-5	19	-8	77	Jordan	489	75	-2	77	0
28	Senegal	633	29	1	27	-1	78	Canada	482	77	-1	70	-8
29	Slovenia	628	36	7	36	7	79	Latvia	481	79	0	78	-1
30	Russia	627	25	-5	22	-8	80	Peru	480	81	1	82	2
31	Nigeria	626	32	1	29	-2	81	Angola	479	86	5	76	-5
32	Uruguay	626	28	-3	28	-3	82	Belarus	478	76	-6	74	-8
33	South Africa	619	31	-2	30	-3	83	Cyprus	474	88	5	80	-3
34	Greece	619	45	12	48	15	84	Haiti	473	80	-4	71	-13
35	Poland	619	29	-4	33	0	85	El Salvador	469	82	-3	94	9
36	Ecuador	616	33	-3	31	-5	86	Togo	468	92	6	85	-1
37	Morocco	613	38	1	35	-2	87	Georgia	468	84	-2	90	4
38	Bulgaria	612	35	-3	42	4	88	Albania	466	89	1	93	5
39	Egypt	606	44	5	39	0	89	Indonesia	465	84	-5	110	21
40	Switzerland	605	43	3	44	4	90	Macedonia FYR	461	93	3	85	-5
41	Iran	600	34	-7	33	-8	91	Kuwait	455	87	-4	83	-8
42	Honduras	596	37	-5	40	-2	92	Libya	455	97	6	104	13
43	Tunisia	596	40	-2	41	-1	93	Syria	445	90	-3	91	-2
44	Israel	593	40	-4	46	2	94	Barbados	442	94	0	99	5
45	Finland	585	45	0	43	-2	95	United Arab Emirates	439	90	-5	89	-6
46	Saudi Arabia	581	42	-4	38	-8	96	Vietnam SR	439	95	0	108	13
47	Ukraine	579	47	0	45	-2	97	Singapore	439	98	3	118	23
48	Jamaica	571	48	0	51	3	98	Liberia	438	96	-2	88	-10
49	Hungary	570	54	5	56	7	99	Lithuania	427	99	0	100	1
50	Australia	562	49	-1	50	0	100	Congo	423	100	0	97	-3

32 England fans arrested

THIRTY-two fans were arrested on suspicion of public order offences at a friendly between England and Croatia, British police said last week.

The England fans' alleged offences included affray and threatening behaviour.

Some were held before the match in Ipswich, eastern England, which England

won 3-1, in order to prevent a breach of the peace, a spokesman for Suffolk Police said.

Around 600 officers were deployed in the city, with police warning there would be "zero tolerance" for troublemakers at the game.

Superintendent Carl Puiy, in charge of policing the friendly, said: "A zero-tolerance policy towards anti-

social, criminal and racial behaviour led to 32 people being arrested before and during the match."

England face the prospect of being banned from the Euro 2004 championship in Portugal if their fans repeat the serious disorder that marred the 2-0 April victory over Turkey in Sunderland.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Action Weekend

